

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Van Hollen and Ranking Member Hagerty,

We are writing to request that the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program be funded at the highest possible level in fiscal year (FY) 2024, or at least commensurate with FY 2023.

The HIDTA program, known for its flexibility to address emerging drug threats, is crucial for state and local law enforcement in combating drug abuse in our nation's communities. The program coordinates federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in 33 counties across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, enabling them to effectively disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking organizations and reduce the violence associated with drug-related crime. To combat the increase in drug overdose deaths, the HIDTA program also deploys its Overdose Response Strategy in 34 states. The HIDTA program also engages and provides support to state and federal prosecutors to successfully convict individuals associated with drug trafficking organizations.

According to the HIDTA 2022 Program Summary of Effectiveness, HIDTAs:

- Investigated more than 9,135 drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and disrupted or dismantled 3,105 of the organizations investigated;
- Deconflicted 281,040 tactical operations among 3,592 law enforcement agencies, providing for enhanced officer safety;
- Seized 31,243 firearms, and apprehended 32,686 fugitives; and
- Facilitated training for over 83,295 criminal justice professionals on drug-related topics.

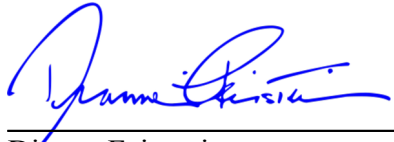
The HIDTA program also removed \$22.3 billion worth of illicit drugs from the streets in a continuing effort to safeguard our communities. Additionally, in 2022, HIDTAs seized \$493.7 million in cash, a total that is nearly three times the amount of Federal funds appropriated for the Program, and other assets valued at \$217.1 million. The combined value of the illegal drugs seized and the cash and assets taken from traffickers equates to a return on investment of \$82.91 for every HIDTA dollar budgeted in 2021.

The HIDTA program has proven to be a fundamental component of the nation's efforts to combat drug trafficking and abuse. At a time when drug use and abuse is leading to more than 107,000 overdose deaths in a twelve-month period, support for HIDTA is imperative. Again, we thank you for your support of this important program and request the highest possible funding for the HIDTA program in FY 2024.

Sincerely,

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



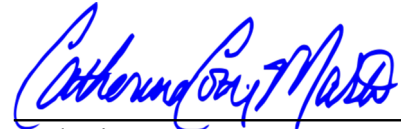
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



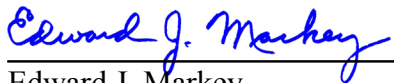
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



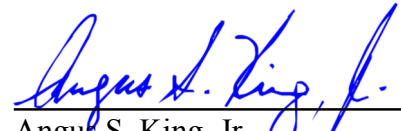
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



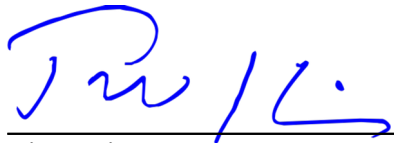
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



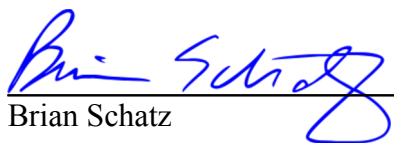
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



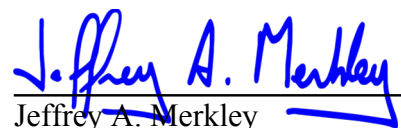
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

United States Senate

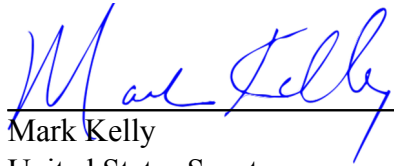
WASHINGTON, DC 20510



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



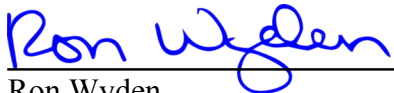
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



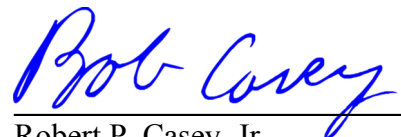
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



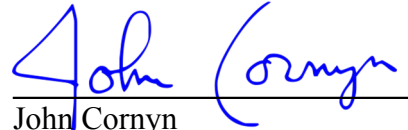
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

United States Senate

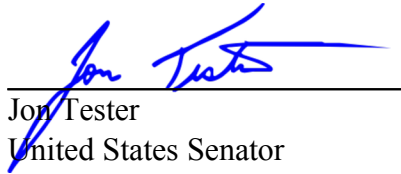
WASHINGTON, DC 20510



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

