



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the largest local law enforcement agencies in the Nation, I am writing to express our opposition to a transfer of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy to the Drug Enforcement Administration. We stand with the National HIDTA Directors' Association and public health and enforcement agencies from across the Nation in this position.

Under HIDTA's current authority, codified in law, each HIDTA is managed by an Executive Board composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement officials. This composition provides for the unique ability for all levels of government to align both strategically and operationally with one another while also coordinating efforts with their public health counterparts. Drawing on the expertise of each member agency, each HIDTA can customize solutions that respond to local challenges, maximizing the collaboration, coordination, and allocation of resources needed to counter drug-trafficking in respective jurisdictions.

The role of ONDCP should not be diminished. Moreover, HIDTA strategies should be coordinated with other approaches to drug abuse, including prevention and treatment efforts. While DEA would have the best intentions for HIDTA, this national and strategic oversight can only be realized when the programs remain at ONDCP.

We hope you will see fit to maintain the current organizational structure of the HIDTA Program within ONDCP. We thank you for your continued support of law enforcement and appreciate the opportunity to add our voice to this national discussion.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Manger  
Chief of Police  
Montgomery County Police Department  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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