



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 30th, 2019

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Representative Lowey, Representative Granger, Senator Kennedy, and Senator Coons:

The Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the Nation's largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies, would like to again voice our strong opposition to the proposed transfer of HIDTA and the Drug Free Schools programs out of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) supports a comprehensive and coordinated response to drug abuse, including prevention, treatment, recovery support, medicine, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform. At a time when we face a drug crisis in our communities, this proposal represents an enormous step backward.

Since its inception, Chiefs and Sheriffs have supported the role of ONDCP and its important work with the Drug Free Communities (DFC) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs. Together, these vital programs are reducing youth drug use, and disrupting the market for illegal drugs by dismantling drug trafficking organizations through the coordinated efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement. Breaking them apart would be counterproductive and represents a major setback in the advances made over many years.

The Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020 would effectively dismantle ONDCP and weaken vital programs at a time when they are needed most. Both DFC and HIDTA are well placed and continue to be effective. We call upon you for leadership and ask that you reject this proposal once again.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
Chief, Houston Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

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