



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

26 September 2024

The Honorable Mark E. Kelly
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelly W. Moore Capito
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Catherine M. Cortez Masto
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marsha M. Blackburn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Kelly, Capito, Masto, and Blackburn,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police members to advise you of our support for S.5270, the "HIDTA Enhancement Act."

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program was enacted in 1988 to provide additional support to areas with high rates of drug trafficking. Since its enactment, the program has designated over 33 areas as HIDTA locations and has subsequently coordinated efforts among law enforcement agencies to combat this issue. This includes the creation of the Investigative Support Center (ISC), which uses cutting edge technology to analyze and disseminate information about drug cartels. According to [HIDTA](#), in 2022 over 134 criminal organizations were dismantled by HIDTA-sponsored initiatives and over 8769 kilograms of drugs were removed from the black market.

The HIDTA program plays a key role in equipping our officers with the tools necessary to combat the ongoing drug epidemic. Your legislation would increase the HIDTA program's budget by over \$28 million to provide for the creation of new grant programs that would enhance fentanyl seizure operations and improve coordination between law enforcement agencies. Additionally, this legislation would require the assignment of U.S. attorneys to HIDTA locations, which would ensure that drug traffickers are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It would also direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to provide reports detailing the use of HIDTA funds in investigating cases involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogs.

Our officers face the dangers of drug trafficking every day, and this legislation would help keep our communities safe.

On behalf of the more than 377,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you all for your leadership on this important issue. If I can provide any additional information in support of this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Paul Sheldon, State President and National Trustee, Arizona State Lodge
Darren McNeil, State President, West Virginia State Lodge
Stephen Walker, National Trustee, West Virginia State Lodge
Scottie Delashmit, State President, Tennessee State Lodge
Johnny Crumby, National Trustee, Tennessee State Lodge
David Moody, State President and National Trustee, Nevada State Lodge