

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial
Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriation
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial
Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman, and Ranking Member:

We the undersigned represent the major groups across all disciplines working on a comprehensive response to the drug crisis facing our nation, to include prevention, treatment, recovery supports, medicine, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform.

As you know, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) oversees and manages the Drug Free Communities (DFC) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs. DFCs provide critical drug prevention funding directly to community coalitions capable of reducing youth drug use, while the mission of the HIDTA program is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking organizations through the coordinated efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement.

We sincerely appreciate the recent commitment by Congress and the Administration to invest significant taxpayer dollars to address our nation's drug crisis. However, we write to convey our serious concerns with the Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019, which would effectively dismantle ONDCP at a time when it is needed the most.

Included in the President's budget is a proposal that will cut ONDCP's budget by a staggering ninety-seven percent in Fiscal Year 2019 by moving the DFC and HIDTA programs to other federal agencies. Under the proposal, the DFC program would be moved to SAMHSA and funded out of SAMHSA's existing substance use prevention budget, thus cutting already scarce federal funding for substance use prevention by \$100 million. Similarly, the HIDTA program would be overseen by the Drug Enforcement Administration. **We strongly oppose any attempt to move either the DFC or HIDTA programs out of ONDCP.**

The DFC program is the only federal drug prevention program that goes directly to communities to deal with all of their most pressing local drug issues. It is unique, in that it requires participation of all community sectors, across the supply - demand reduction split to plan, implement and evaluate locally tailored comprehensive strategies capable of dealing with the full range of drug issues and trends, including opioids, meth, and synthetics. The program requires a local match in order to leverage all available resources. The DFC program has a consistent track

record in greatly reducing youth drug use in funded communities to levels lower than national averages through its data driven, comprehensive, multi-sector approach. Moving the DFC program out of ONDCP would reduce its effectiveness by markedly limiting the full range of essential partners, to include local law enforcement, needed to continue to achieve the impressive population level reductions in youth drug use rates. It would also undermine the robust data collection and evaluation components of the program, which are fully managed and funded by ONDCP.

The HIDTA program is an essential component of the National Drug Control Strategy. It is clear that federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement plays an integral role in a balanced strategy to reduce drug misuse and its harmful consequences. The HIDTA program enhances and coordinates federal, state, local, and tribal anti-drug misuse efforts from a local, regional, and national perspective, leveraging resources at all levels in a true partnership. The HIDTA program gives federal, state, local and tribal criminal justice leaders a balanced and equal voice in identifying the regional threat, developing a strategy, investing in the strategy, and assessing performance. This unique feature of the HIDTA program creates the ability for each HIDTA to quickly, effectively, and efficiently adapt to emerging threats that may be unique to a given region providing for the greatest level of impact. Moving the HIDTA program out of ONDCP would all but eliminate the balanced voice found in the long-standing law enforcement partnerships, and the many other innovative approaches that are essential components of an effective drug policy.

Not only would such a move drastically weaken these vitally important programs, and force them to compete for priority, direction, and funding in larger agencies with competing and higher priorities, but it would significantly impact ONDCP's ability to effectively carry out its mission. ONDCP oversees federal efforts to combat every drug problem facing our nation, to include the opioid overdose epidemic, methamphetamines, synthetic drugs, cocaine, marijuana, etc., by coordinating all federal agencies responsible for reducing drug trafficking and misuse and ensuring their adherence to the President's priorities. No other agency has this unique responsibility to coordinate efforts across the federal government to execute one shared drug strategy. This oversight is instrumental in eliminating waste and fraud by preventing duplicative programs and strategies among the various federal agencies. Cutting ONDCP's budget would significantly harm the effectiveness of this unique mission.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 63,600 Americans died of a drug overdose in 2016, a staggering 21 percent increase from 2015. With 174 people dying from drug overdose each day there is no doubt the drug epidemic is an urgent and serious problem impacting families across our nation. The President's budget proposal would create an unnecessary distraction at a time when the federal government should be focused on saving lives. We urge you to continue to allow the ONDCP to use its expertise to administer these programs with its full funding intact.

Sincerely,

1. A New Path
2. Addiction Policy Forum

3. Advocates for Recovery Colorado
4. Alano Club of Portland
5. American Psychiatric Association
6. American Society of Addiction Medicine
7. Apricity
8. Arizona Council of Human Services Providers
9. Association for Behavioral Healthcare (Massachusetts)
10. Association of Persons Affected by Addiction
11. Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
12. Bangor Area Recovery Network, Inc.
13. CADA of Northwest Louisiana
14. California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
15. Captial Area Project Vox
16. Caron Treatment Centers
17. Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
18. CFC Loud N Clear Foundation
19. Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition
20. College on Problems of Drug Dependence
21. Communities for Recovery
22. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
23. Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery
24. DarJune Recovery Support Services & Cafe
25. Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
26. DC Recovery Community Alliance
27. Dekalb Open Opportunity for Recovery (The DOOR)
28. Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
29. Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.
30. Drug Free Projects Coalition
31. El Paso Alliance
32. Faces and Voices of Recovery
33. FAVOR Grand Strand
34. FAVOR Greenville
35. FAVOR Low Country
36. FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
37. FAVOR Pee Dee
38. FAVOR Tri-County
39. Fellowship Foundation Recovery Community Organization
40. Florida Coalition Alliance
41. Floridians for Recovery
42. Foundation for Recovery
43. Friends of Recovery - New York
44. Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
45. Greater Macomb Project Vox (Michigan)
46. HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
47. IC & RC
48. Illinois Association for Behavioral Health

49. Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc
50. Iowa Behavioral Health Association
51. Jackson Area Recovery Community (Michigan)
52. Juneau Recovery Community
53. Latah Recovery Center
54. Legal Action Center
55. Lifehouse Recovery Connection
56. Live4Lali, Inc.
57. Long Island Recovery Association
58. Lost Dreams Awaken Center, Inc.
59. Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerryville
60. Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
61. Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
62. Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
63. Minnesota Recovery Connection
64. Missouri Recovery Network
65. National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies
66. National Association for Children of Addiction
67. National Association for Rural Mental Health
68. National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
69. National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
70. National Association of Social Workers
71. National Council for Behavioral Health
72. National Criminal Justice Association
73. National District Attorneys Association
74. National Families in Action
75. National HIDTA Directors Association
76. National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition
77. National Safety Council
78. Navigate Recovery Gwinnett (Georgia)
79. Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region (New Hampshire)
80. Northern Ohio Recovery Association
81. NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
82. Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and Treatment Association
83. Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
84. PEER 360 Recovery Alliance
85. Peer Coach Academy Colorado
86. Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together
87. Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance
88. People Advocating Recovery
89. Phoenix Multisport Boston
90. PLR Athens
91. Portland Recovery Community Center
92. Prevention Alliance of Tennessee
93. RASE Project
94. REAL - Michigan (Recovery, Education, Advocacy & Leadership)

95. Recover Project/Western MA Training
96. Recover Wyoming
97. Recovery Allies of West Michigan
98. RecoveryATX
99. Recovery Cafe
100. Recovery Communities of North Carolina
101. Recovery Community of Durham
102. Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
103. Recovery Data Solutions
104. Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.
105. Recovery Force of Atlantic County
106. Recovery is Happening
107. Recovery Organization of Support Specialists
108. Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts
109. Rochester Recovery Community Center
110. ROCovery Fitness
111. Safe Harbor Recovery Center - Granite Pathways
112. Save Our Society From Drugs
113. Smart Approaches to Marijuana Action (SAM Action)
114. SMART Recovery
115. Solano Recovery Project
116. Solutions Recovery, Inc.
117. SOS Recovery Community Organization
118. SpiritWorks Foundation
119. Springs Recovery Connection
120. Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow
121. The Bridge Foundation
122. The Kennedy Forum
123. The McShin Foundation
124. The Moyer Foundation
125. The Rosenthal Center
126. The Serenity House of Flint
127. Tia Hart Recovery Community Program
128. T.O.R.C.H Inc.
129. Trilogy Recovery Community
130. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) - Illinois
131. Treatment Communities of America
132. United Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Coalition
133. Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness
134. Vermont Recovery Network
135. Virginia Association of Recovery Residences
136. Voices of Hope for Cecil County (Maryland)
137. Voices of Hope Lexington
138. WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
139. Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project
140. WestCare Foundation, Inc.

141. Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization
142. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery