

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 write in strong support of funding the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program, authorized by section 8203 of Subtitle K of the SUPPORT Act (P.L. 115-27) and the training and technical assistance authorized by section 8204, from within the appropriated amount for this program, at the highest possible level in FY 2024. The final FY 2023 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act appropriated \$109 million for the DFC program and \$2.5 million from within the total for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute (the Institute). Although we are thankful for the \$3 million increase the program received in FY 2023, almost all of that additional funding went to federal program administration. We are hopeful that any increases in FY 2024 funding for the DFC program fund new grants to increase the scale and scope of community-based prevention efforts to address the nation's worsening drug crises.

In the midst of the devastating drug overdose epidemic, the DFC program warrants the highest possible funding level because it has proven effective in reducing youth substance use. According to independent research in communities where DFC coalitions exist, rates of past 30-day use among middle school students for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 11.3%, 22.6%, 7.7% and 3.8%, respectively among FY 2020 DFC coalitions. Among high school students, rates for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 27.7%, 41.9%, 11.6% and 29.6% respectively among FY 2020 DFC coalitions (ICF International, National Evaluation of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, August 2022 Report).

DFC coalitions exist in 745 communities across the nation and provide support to 2.7 million middle school students and 3.8 million high school students. The program requires a community to demonstrate local commitment before it is eligible to receive federal funds, which means that at least 12 sectors within the community must come together to plan and implement evidence-based programs that will meet the community's unique needs in reducing drug use. All grantees are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match in non-federal funds, up to the maximum grant amount of \$125,000 per year.

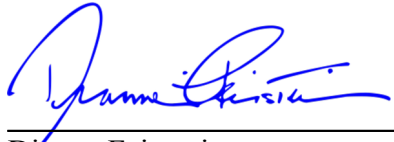
The required emphasis on local data collection, community buy-in and participation among multiple sectors is central to the DFC coalitions' success and allows grantees to respond effectively to all drug trends.

For these reasons, we urge you to fund the Drug-Free Communities program at the highest possible level in FY 2024.

Sincerely,

United States Senate

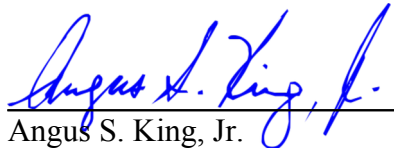
WASHINGTON, DC 20510



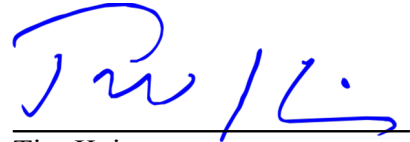
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



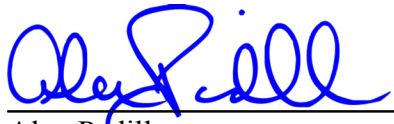
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



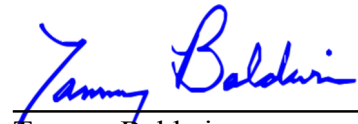
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



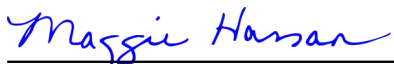
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



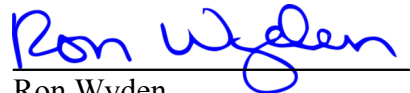
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



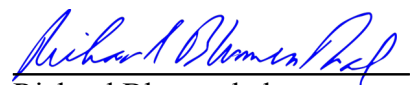
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



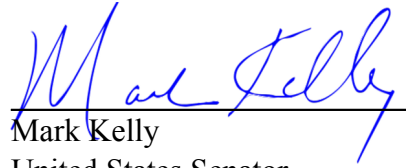
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

United States Senate

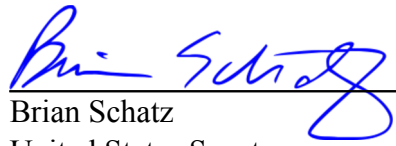
WASHINGTON, DC 20510



Roger Marshall M.D.
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



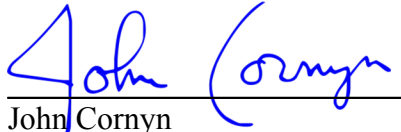
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



John Cornyn
United States Senator



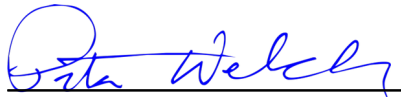
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



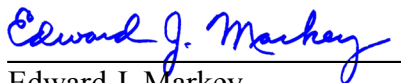
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



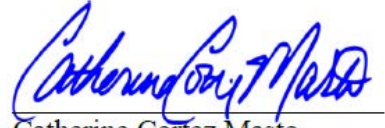
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



Ted Budd
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

**Financial Services and General Government Group Letter Table
FSGG_Feinstein_Group_230331-030904[LetterID 13694]**

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
99293	FSGG Group	[Title II]/[Executive Office of the President]/[Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)] [Member Staff] - Daniel Leonardini Daniel_Leonardini@feinstein.senate.gov 202-224-9642	Drug Free Communities Program [Member's Request (text)] - Fund the Drug-Free Communities program at the highest possible level in FY 2024.	\$109

Request ID: 99293

Agency or Account:	[Title II]/[Executive Office of the President]/[Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)]	Project Name:	Drug Free Communities Program
Member/s:	Feinstein, Dianne(D-CA); Baldwin, Tammy(D-WI); Blumenthal, Richard(D-CT); Booker, Cory(D-NJ); Brown, Sherrod(D-OH); Budd, Ted(R-NC); Cardin, Benjamin(D-MD); Coons, Christopher(D-DE); Cornyn, John(R-TX); Cortez Masto, Catherine(D-NV); Duckworth, Tammy(D-IL); Durbin, Richard(D-IL); Grassley, Chuck(R-IA); Hassan, Margaret Wood(D-NH); Hirono, Mazie(D-HI); Kaine, Tim(D-VA); Kelly, Mark(D-AZ); King, Angus(I-ME); Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN); Luján, Ben Ray(D-NM); Manchin, Joe(D-WV); Markey, Edward(D-MA); Marshall, Roger(R-KS); Menendez, Robert(D-NJ); Merkley, Jeff(D-OR); Murphy, Christopher(D-CT); Ossoff, Jon(D-GA); Padilla, Alex(D-CA); Peters, Gary(D-MI); Reed, Jack(D-RI); Schatz, Brian(D-HI); Shaheen, Jeanne(D-NH); Smith, Tina(D-MN); Tester, Jon(D-MT); Warner, Mark(D-VA); Warren, Elizabeth(D-MA); Welch, Peter(D-VT); Whitehouse, Sheldon(D-RI); Wyden, Ron(D-OR)	Subcommittee:	FSGG
Request Type:	Group	Staff Contact:	Daniel Leonardini Daniel_Leonardini@feinstein.senate.gov 202-224-9642

Justification: We write in strong support of funding the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program, authorized by section 8203 of Subtitle K of the SUPPORT Act (P.L. 115-27) and the training and technical assistance authorized by section 8204, from within the appropriated amount for this program, at the highest possible level in FY 2024. The final FY 2023 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act appropriated \$109 million for the DFC program and \$2.5 million from within the total for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute (the Institute). Although we are thankful for the \$3 million increase the program received in FY 2023, almost all of that additional funding went to federal program administration. We are hopeful that any increases in FY 2024 funding for the DFC program fund new grants to increase the scale and scope of community-based prevention efforts to address the nation’s worsening drug crises.

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Proposed Bill Language:		Proposed Report Language:	
Member's Request:	\$109	Member's Request (text):	Fund the Drug-Free Communities program at the highest possible level in FY 2024.
Enacted Level:	\$109	President's Request:	\$109
CDS Request:	No		