

September 26, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for the *HIDTA Enhancement Act of 2024*, led by Senators Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN). This important legislation provides law enforcement with the necessary resources to address and mitigate the prevalence of fentanyl in communities nationwide, helping to fight against the ongoing opioid crisis and save countless lives.

In 2023, 106,876 people died from a drug overdose, with 74,088 deaths being from synthetic opioids like fentanyl.¹ Countless communities and families nationwide have been torn apart due to the ongoing opioid epidemic, which has been exacerbated by the continued prevalence and availability of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances in jurisdictions nationwide.

The *HIDTA Enhancement Act* would help address this problem by:

- Reauthorizing the HIDTA program at an increased amount from 2025 through 2030;
- Increasing competitive grant funding and expanding the allowable use of grant funds to include activities around fentanyl prevention, seizure, and interdiction;
- Direct the Attorney General to coordinate with each individual HIDTA's Executive Boards in ensuring sufficient resources available for investigating and prosecuting fentanyl-related cases; and
- Require a report from ONDCP regarding the use of HIDTA funds for investigating fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances.

We respectfully urge you to advance this important bill, which will ensure that law enforcement agencies have the resources needed to effectively address the presence of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances in jurisdictions across the country and to help alleviate the harms of the opioid crisis facing our country.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing justice and public safety. We are grateful for your tireless work and dedication to keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Addiction Policy Forum
American Probation and Parole Association
Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition

¹ Center for Disease Control/National Center for Health Statistics. (2024, August 14). *Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts*. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

Beyond the Pod
Huntington, WV QRT (Quick Response Team)
International Community Justice Association
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.
National District Attorneys Association
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
Positive Recovery
Treatment Communities of America
WestCare
Youth Connections