



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Raskin:

We write to register the strong support of the nation's mayors for the reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The United States Conference of Mayors is deeply invested in the well-being of our cities; we firmly believe that ONDCP plays a crucial role in addressing the complex challenges posed by substance use disorders and addiction in our nation.

Substance use disorders and addiction remain significant public health and public safety concerns, affecting individuals, families, and communities across the United States. They constitute a problem that transcends social, economic, and demographic boundaries and, therefore, requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach. ONDCP has demonstrated its effectiveness in coordinating efforts, implementing evidence-based strategies, and promoting collaboration among various agencies and stakeholders to combat drug-related problems.

Through its programs and initiatives, ONDCP has been instrumental in helping cities tackle the issues of illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking and providing state and local law enforcement with resources and tools to help meet this challenge. The emphasis on evidence-based practices and data-driven policies has been essential in making measurable progress in addressing this issue.

ONDCP's efforts have also focused on prevention, treatment, and support for individuals in need. The agency has helped foster partnerships with state and local governments, community organizations, healthcare providers, and law enforcement agencies, creating a unified front against substance use disorders.

By reauthorizing ONDCP, we can continue to build upon the achievements made so far and work towards a society free from the devastating impact of substance use disorders. Some of the key areas in which ONDCP has made a significant impact include:

Prevention Programs: ONDCP's support for prevention initiatives, such as the Drug-Free Communities program, has helped educate the public, especially our youth, about the risks associated with drug use. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions, we can reduce the demand for illicit substances.

Treatment and Recovery Services: ONDCP has been instrumental in promoting access to quality treatment and recovery services for individuals battling addiction. By removing barriers to treatment and enhancing support systems, we can ensure a higher successful recovery rate and reduce the cycle of substance use disorders.

Law Enforcement Collaboration: The 33 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) established by ONDCP coordinate and assist federal, state, local, and tribal law agencies to address regional drug threats by reducing drug trafficking and drug production in the United States. The HIDTA Program has helped public safety officials implement integrated operations against drug trafficking organizations and, with ONDCP's leadership, has provided cost-effective solution to address addiction and the overdose crisis. In 2021, the HIDTAs seized an estimated \$27 billion in illicit drugs and cash—representing a return on investment of \$100.84 for every \$1 budgeted for the HIDTA Program.

Research and Data Analysis: ONDCP's focus on data-driven approaches enables us to understand substance use disorder trends better, anticipate emerging threats, identify effective law enforcement strategies, and allocate resources more efficiently.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy is vital to our fight against substance use disorders and addiction and illegal drug trafficking. Its reauthorization will ensure the continuity of its essential work and leading to a safer, healthier, and more prosperous nation. The nation's mayors urge you to act quickly to reauthorize ONDCP so that it can continue the critical mission of combating substance use disorders and promoting public health and safety.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

cc. Members of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability