



National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

2023 Federal Priorities

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - \$519 million

Byrne JAG is a critical source of support for multijurisdictional task forces. Task forces are cornerstones of effective drug law enforcement that enable joint efforts against regional drug trafficking organizations that are connected to larger transnational crime groups. Byrne JAG funding has been slashed since FY 2010, resulting in fewer task forces at a time when drug overdose deaths have skyrocketed. Byrne JAG should be restored to the FY 2010 level of **\$519 million in FY 2024**.

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program - \$55 million

RISS is a trusted cornerstone of law enforcement information sharing. RISS, which reaches nearly 10,000 agencies across the United States, is particularly helpful to small agencies that do not have in-house analytical or investigative support functions. RISS centers provide criminal intelligence analysis, officer safety, and deconfliction services that are critical to America's narcotic officers. RISS funding should be funded at no less than **\$55 million in FY 2024**.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program

HIDTA provides essential support for drug enforcement across America. Results of HIDTA investments are clearly demonstrated through a comprehensive performance measurement program. HIDTAs support investigations into hundreds of regional and international drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and money laundering organizations (MLOs). HIDTA should be funded at **a level in FY 2024 that allows for a dedicated funding increase to the baseline budgets of all 34 HIDTA's while retaining the HIDTA program within the Office of National Drug Control Policy**.

Pass Legislation to Permanently Schedule Fentanyl Analogues

Fentanyl and similar substances kill tens of thousands of Americans each year. While Congress recently extended the temporary emergency scheduling through 2024 of these substances under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, permanent scheduling – which the **Stopping Overdoses of Fentanyl Analogues (SOFA) Act** would do – would support continued aggressive enforcement against criminals who traffic in these poisons.

Protect Facial Recognition and Other Investigative Technologies

Investigative technology, including facial recognition, helps law enforcement be more accurate and efficient in investigating drug trafficking organizations. Overhyped fears about these tools ignore the reality that they are successfully used every day to protect Americans. We support responsible guardrails including human review of technology outputs. Congress should **oppose bans, moratoriums, or other undue limitations on the use of facial recognition and other investigative tools**.

Protect Access to Private Sector Digital Information

Protecting the privacy rights of law-abiding citizens is a top priority of law enforcement and members of Congress. Legislation to strengthen these protections is currently being considered by Congress, however we are concerned with proposed language that could hinder federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from using private sector services to support drug trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal investigations. Congress should **ensure law enforcement has access to important commercial data, oppose data retention and destruction mandates that could impact access to investigative data, and provide exemptions for companies working with law enforcement when considering data privacy legislation**.

Pass Legislation to Ensure Lawful Access to Digital Evidence

The “going dark” challenge impacts criminal investigations every day in America. This is when companies implement encryption on devices and apps without maintaining an ability to provide access to the system when a judge signs a warrant. That means drug traffickers, child exploiters, and other criminals have an easier time planning, executing, and covering up their activities. Congress should **ensure service providers can provide lawful access to digital evidence in response to a warrant, and should increase grants and training to build digital evidence capacity among all of law enforcement**.

Oppose Marijuana Legalization; Regulate CBD Products

Data show that youth drug use, seizures of black market marijuana, and marijuana-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and traffic deaths have skyrocketed in states that have legalized marijuana sales. **Congress should oppose any effort to legalize marijuana, including the MORE Act.** At the same time, Congress should ensure that CBD, which does not produce impairment, is subjected to a clear regulatory framework to protect consumer safety.

Support the National Guard Counterdrug Program & Training Schools

The National Guard Counterdrug Program (NGCDP) provides valuable support for the detection, interdiction, disruption, and curtailment of drug trafficking activities. NGCDP offers important analytical support to our operations and task forces, and provides our members with crucial aviation support. Additionally, high quality training is essential for all of law enforcement, and especially for drug enforcement operations. The National Guard Counterdrug Schools train tens of thousands of narcotic officers each year at its five nation-wide schools. Congress should fund the National Guard Counterdrug Schools at no less than **\$30 million in FY 2024 and ensure that curriculum content and instruction are determined by drug enforcement experts. Additionally, the National Guard Counterdrug Program should be fully funded at \$400 million to permit full staffing and ensure analytical personnel are in the field.**

Importation of Counterfeit Medications

Counterfeit drugs, especially counterfeit pills made with fentanyl, are having a devastating impact on the United States and they are a major contributor to the thousands of drug deaths our Country is currently experiencing. We believe that continuing to allow importation of these dangerous drugs will further weaken our borders, while also increasing the amount of substandard, adulterated, and counterfeit prescription drugs entering the United States, fueling criminal enterprises, and worsening the opioid crisis in our country. Congress should **reject any proposal that will increase the potential for more Americans to become harmed, addicted, or even killed by foreign-produced and marketed illegal drugs.**

Restrict Marketing of CBD/THC

It is the responsibility of private industry and our elected leaders to work with us to discourage the questionable practices and deceptive marketing tactics that illicit market producers and distributors of THC products use to entice and encourage impressionable young people to consume these dangerous substances. Children are increasingly threatened by the unscrupulous use of famous brand logos, characters, trademarks, and trade dress on THC-laced edible products. Proposed legislation creates liability for electronic commerce platforms for advertising, sale, or distribution of goods with counterfeit marks that “implicate health and safety.” Congress should also **include “famous” marks, a term already defined in U.S. code, to extend this protection and deter the sale of these copycat THC items which clearly “implicate health and safety” of children.** You can learn more about this issue from the Consumer Brands Association THC Copycat Edibles Toolkit, which can be found at the following link: <https://consumerbrandsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL-THC-Packet.pdf>.

To view NNOAC’s detailed position papers,
scan the QR code below.

