



National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

2024 Federal Priorities

Support Funding for Critical Law Enforcement Programs

As we face an ongoing unprecedented drug poisoning epidemic, maximizing funding for key law enforcement support programs is the highest priority for the NNOAC.

The **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program** is a critical source of support for state and local multijurisdictional task forces. Task forces are cornerstones of effective drug law enforcement. **Byrne JAG should be restored to the FY 2010 level of \$519 million in FY 2025 after carveouts.**

The **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program** provides essential support for drug enforcement across America. 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 2025 that allows for baseline funding increases for all 33 HIDTAs while ensuring the HIDTA program is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.**

The **Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program** is a trusted cornerstone of law enforcement information sharing. 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 2025.**

The **National Guard Counterdrug Program (NGCDP)** provides valuable support for the detection, interdiction, disruption, and curtailment of drug trafficking activities. NGCDP offers important analytical and operational support to narcotic officers around the country. The National Guard Counterdrug Schools train tens of thousands of narcotic officers every year at five schools. **Congress should fund the National Guard Counterdrug Schools at no less than \$30 million in FY 2025 and ensure that curriculum content and instruction are delivered by drug law enforcement experts. The NGCDP should be funded at \$400 million to ensure staffing meets demand and ensure analytical support in the field.**

Drug Policy Reform and Tackling the Fentanyl Crisis

Fentanyl and similar substances kill tens of thousands of Americans each year. While Congress recently extended the temporary emergency scheduling of fentanyl under the Controlled Substances Act through 2024, permanent scheduling should follow. Additionally, Congress should prioritize actions to target the supply of precursor chemicals and go after bad actors abroad to disrupt fentanyl and illicit opioid supply chains. Along with fentanyl, xylazine has become a major scourge and challenge for public safety. Congress must consider greater restrictions on xylazine while ensuring access for legitimate uses.

The NNOAC opposes legalization of marijuana for recreational use. Mounting data show that youth drug use, seizures of illicit-market marijuana, and marijuana-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and traffic deaths have skyrocketed in states that have legalized recreational marijuana sales. Additionally, research has shown an increase in higher rates of psychosis, especially in young people, due to marijuana use. Congress should oppose the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes.

Preserving Federal Civil Asset Forfeiture and Equitable Sharing

Congress should oppose the Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act. Asset forfeiture is a critical tool that helps deter crime by allowing law enforcement to deprive criminals of the proceeds of their illegal activity, making it harder to further their illicit businesses. Proposed reforms are exceptionally burdensome compared to how other civil proceedings are conducted. Additionally, efforts to end “equitable sharing” would have adverse effects on law enforcement operations, including reduced participation in the multijurisdictional task forces that focus investigative resources on the most significant and dangerous drug trafficking organizations and other violent offenders.

Securing the Border

The relative ease with which Mexican cartels and transnational drug trafficking organizations transport drugs across our porous borders is inexcusable. Until our borders are secure, source country governments are sanctioned for their complicity, and trafficking organizations and their actors are prosecuted and punished for their murderous activities, the flow of drugs into the United States will continue and our citizens, their families, and our economy will continue to needlessly suffer tragic losses. **Congress must provide the resources necessary to gain control of our borders to keep drug traffickers, their poisons, and their criminal organizations out of our country.**

Preserving Access to Investigative Tools and Digital Evidence

The NNOAC is concerned about proposed legislation including the *Fourth Amendment is Not For Sale Act* and the *American Data Privacy Protection Act* that could hinder federal, state, and local law enforcement from accessing critical data to support investigations into drug trafficking, money laundering, and other crimes. Congress should **ensure law enforcement has access to important commercial data sources, 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.** Additionally, investigative technology, including facial recognition, helps law enforcement be more accurate and efficient in investigating drug trafficking organizations. **Congress should oppose bans, moratoriums, or other undue limitations on the use of critical investigative tools and data sources.**

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