



National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

2026 Federal Priorities

Support and Refocus Critical Law Enforcement Assistance Programs

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program

The Byrne JAG formula program is the most important federal grant supporting multi-jurisdictional law enforcement and remains NNOAC's top federal priority. Byrne JAG provides flexible, locally driven resources that allow state and local agencies to work across jurisdictions to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations. Over time, funding available for law enforcement purposes has declined due to appropriations carve-outs and shifting priorities, even as traffickers continue to adapt.

- **Request:** Congress should provide at least level funding (\$350 million) for the Byrne JAG Formula Program in FY 2027 and refocus program resources on multi-jurisdictional task forces, intelligence sharing, and coordinated enforcement activities targeting drug trafficking organizations.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)

The HIDTA Program is one of the most effective tools Congress has created to address regional and transnational drug trafficking threats. Administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), HIDTA provides a neutral, partnership-based structure that brings federal, state, local, and tribal agencies together to jointly identify investigative priorities, share intelligence, and coordinate enforcement. Governed by Executive Boards of made up of law enforcement leaders from agencies that are closest to the drug threats, HIDTA ensures accountability and rapid response to emerging drug trends.

- **Request:** Congress should keep HIDTA at ONDCP and provide at least level funding (\$300 million) for the program in FY 2027.

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)

The RISS Program is a trusted cornerstone of law enforcement information sharing, providing criminal intelligence analysis, officer safety services, deconfliction, and case support to narcotic officers and thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide. RISS enables agencies to identify connections across jurisdictions, enhances officer safety through deconfliction resources, and increases investigative effectiveness through technical assistance and analytical support.

- **Request:** Congress should provide robust, sustained funding of at least \$55 million for RISS in FY27 to preserve and strengthen nationwide law enforcement information sharing.

National Guard Counterdrug Program

The National Guard Counterdrug Program provides critical operational, analytical, and training support to law enforcement counterdrug efforts nationwide. Its regional presence and specialized capabilities strengthen task forces and expand investigative capacity. National Guard Counterdrug Schools train tens of thousands of state and local narcotic officers each year using real-world enforcement expertise.

- **Request:** Congress should ensure sufficient funding to meet operational demand and maintain high-quality, law-enforcement-driven counterdrug training and analytical support.

Maintain Focus on Addressing Ongoing Drug Threats

The drug crisis remains one of the most serious threats to public health, public safety, and national security. Although recent federal data indicate declines from record overdose death peaks, fatalities remain historically elevated, driven largely by synthetic drugs and sophisticated trafficking networks. These losses continue to devastate families and communities nationwide.

- **Request:** Congress should maintain sustained attention and resources focused on disrupting drug trafficking organizations while supporting coordinated public health responses.

Increase Border Security and Attack Trafficking Networks

Transnational drug trafficking organizations exploit global supply chains, precursor chemical networks, and sophisticated smuggling methods to move illicit drugs into the United States. Border security, combined with

intelligence-led investigations and coordinated prosecutions, is essential to disrupting these networks and holding traffickers accountable.

- **Request:** Congress should strengthen border security and interagency coordination to disrupt trafficking networks before illicit drugs reach U.S. communities.

Be Clear on the Impacts of Marijuana Policy and Federal Rescheduling

NNOAC has serious concerns regarding efforts to reschedule marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act. Rescheduling risks signaling reduced harm despite evidence of addiction, impaired driving, mental health impacts, and persistent illicit markets tied to organized crime. It would also complicate enforcement in the absence of a scientifically established THC impairment standard.

- **Request:** Before marijuana rescheduling moves forward, Congress and the Administration should work with NNOAC and other state and local law enforcement partners to ensure federal marijuana policy preserves law enforcement's ability to protect communities, including enforceable impaired-driving standards, public education on health risks, and resources to combat illicit markets.

Act Quickly to Address Emerging Synthetic Drug Threats

While permanent scheduling of fentanyl-related substances closed key enforcement gaps, traffickers continue introducing new synthetic drugs such as xylazine and nitazenes that increase overdose risk and complicate enforcement. These evolving threats require proactive authorities and rapid intelligence sharing.

- **Request:** Congress should support targeted scheduling authorities, advanced forensic detection, and rapid information sharing to address emerging synthetic drug threats.

Invest in Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

Expanding access to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services is essential to reducing overdose deaths and supporting individuals with substance use disorders. While recent legislation provides a foundation, treatment gaps and workforce shortages remain significant challenges.

- **Request:** Congress should strengthen and sustain investments in prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce development coordinated with enforcement strategies.

Preserve Federal Civil Asset Forfeiture and Equitable Sharing

Civil asset forfeiture and the Equitable Sharing Program are critical tools that allow law enforcement to deprive drug trafficking organizations of illicit proceeds and support multi-jurisdictional efforts. Eliminating Equitable Sharing would undermine regional and federal task forces targeting high-level traffickers and violent offenders.

- **Request:** Oppose efforts to eliminate Equitable Sharing and preserve civil asset forfeiture.

Preserve Access to Investigative Tools and Data

Overly broad data privacy proposals and technology bans risk undermining law enforcement's ability to investigate drug trafficking, money laundering, and violent crime. Lawful access by law enforcement agencies to commercially available data and modern investigative technologies improves accuracy and efficiency in policing and increases public safety.

- **Request:** Congress should protect law enforcement access to commercially available data and investigative tools and oppose blanket bans or restrictive mandates that hinder criminal investigations.



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