

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2015

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Committee on Appropriations
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano,

We are writing to urge the Subcommittee to maintain resources for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program and fund it at \$250 million. This program has been critical for state and local law enforcement in combating drug abuse in our nation's communities. With the addition of 26 new HIDTA counties in 2014 we believe that to maintain resources for the HIDTA program this funding level is needed.

HIDTA coordinates federal, state and local drug task forces to disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking organizations. It also engages and provides support to state and federal prosecutors to successfully convict the individuals associated with these drug trafficking organizations. According to the HIDTA 2014 Preliminary Summary of Effectiveness HIDTAs:

- Investigated more than 8,200 drug trafficking organizations and money laundering organizations,
- Assisted with 207,000 tactical operations, and
- Apprehended 31,620 fugitives.

In addition to providing essential resources to law enforcement, HIDTA makes huge strides in disrupting illegal markets by taking proceeds of illegal activity off the streets. In the past year, this has amounted to \$750 million in illegal proceeds being taken off the streets and reinvested in law enforcement efforts. That adds to more than double the amount of Federal appropriations for

the program. In the last five years, HIDTAs have taken more than \$3.6 billion in illegal proceeds away from criminal organizations. Clearly, HIDTA more than pays for itself.

We were dismayed to see that the President's budget request once again included only \$193.4 million for HIDTA, representing about a \$52 million reduction in appropriations from Fiscal Year 2015. In light of the HIDTA program's effectiveness on the ground, the 26 counties that have been added to the program, and the fact that more than 60 percent of the country's population lives in a HIDTA area, we feel it would be irresponsible to cut over 20 percent of this program's budget, as the Administration proposes. To maintain resources for the HIDTA program with the additional counties, adequate funding is needed to continue and build upon its critical mission.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



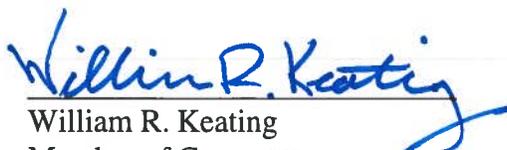
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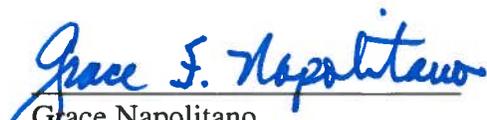
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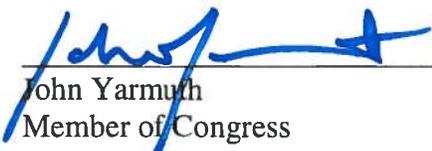
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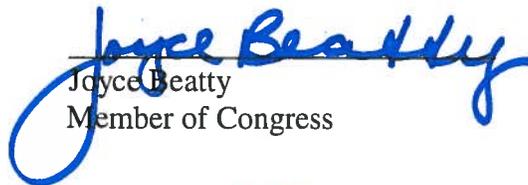
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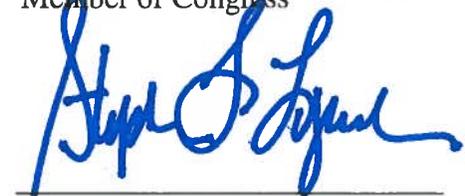

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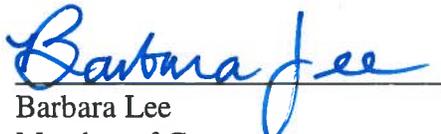

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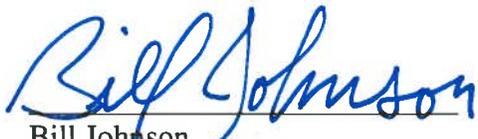

Loretta Sanchez
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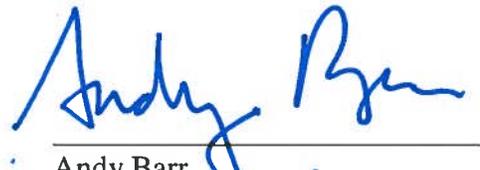

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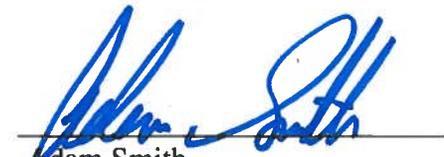

Barbara Lee
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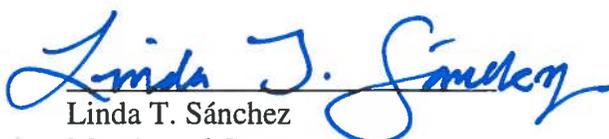

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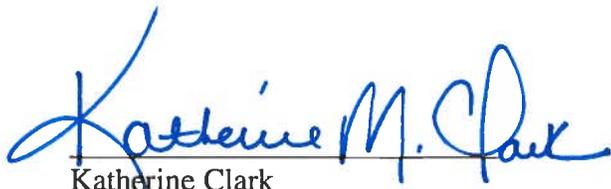

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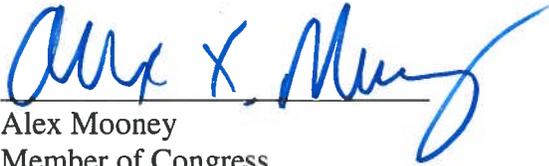

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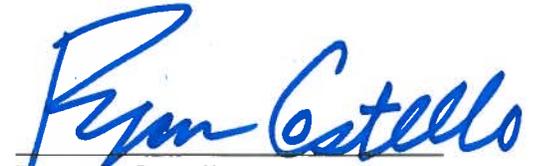
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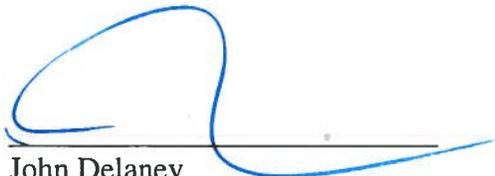
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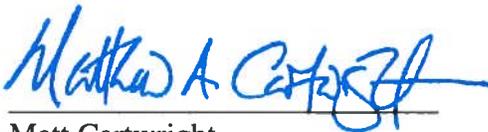
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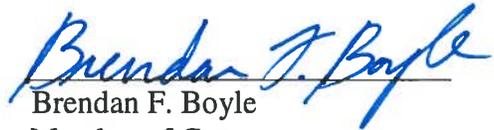
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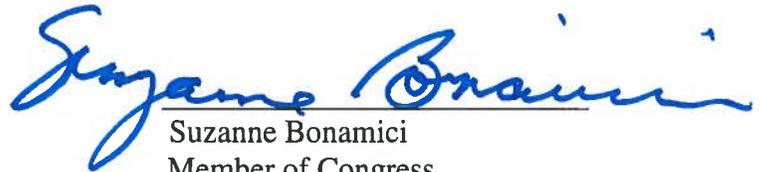
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Patrick Meehan
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