



# National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

## 2025 Federal Priorities

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### Fully Fund and Refocus Critical Law Enforcement Grant Programs

The **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program** is a critical source of support for state and local law enforcement including multijurisdictional task forces. Task forces are cornerstones of effective drug law enforcement. **Congress should restore the Byrne JAG formula program at the FY'10 level of \$519 million.** The amount of JAG funding allocated to drug enforcement has fallen drastically in many parts of the country. **Congress should refocus Byrne JAG to its original drug enforcement focus** to help local and state law enforcement smartly and aggressively target drug trafficking organizations in our communities.

The **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program** provides essential support for drug enforcement collaboration 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 & 2026 that allows for baseline funding increases for all 33 HIDTAs.** **The HIDTA program should continue to be administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.**

The **National Guard Counterdrug Program (NGCDP)** provides valuable training and support to help law enforcement counter drug trafficking activities. **The NGCDP should be funded at \$400 million** to ensure staffing meets demand and ensure analytical support in the field. The five National Guard Counterdrug Schools train tens of thousands of narcotic officers every year. **Congress should fund the National Guard Counterdrug Schools at no less than \$30 million in FY 2025 & 2026** and ensure that curriculum content and instruction are delivered by drug law enforcement experts.

The **Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program** is a trusted cornerstone of law enforcement information sharing. RISS centers provide criminal intelligence analysis, officer safety, deconfliction, and case support services that are critical to America's narcotic officers. **RISS should be funded at no less than \$55 million in FY 2025 & 2026.**

### Secure the Border

**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.** 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, until source country governments are sanctioned for their complicity, and until trafficking organizations and their actors are prosecuted and punished for their murderous activities, the flow of drugs into the United States will continue to inflict needless tragic losses and economic ruin on our citizens, their families, and our communities.

### Preserve Federal Civil Asset Forfeiture and the Equitable Sharing Program

**Congress should oppose the Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act** and any other proposals that would reduce law enforcement collaboration against drug trafficking organizations. Civil 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. The FAIR Act would eliminate the Equitable Sharing program. Ending Equitable Sharing would severely undermine law enforcement operations, especially multijurisdictional task forces that focus investigative resources on the most significant and dangerous drug trafficking organizations and other violent offenders.

### **Preserve Law Enforcement Access to Investigative Tools and Digital Evidence**

Overly broad and poorly targeted data privacy legislation could cripple federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts to investigate drug trafficking, money laundering, and all types of violent crime. When considering data privacy legislation, Congress should:

- ensure law enforcement has access to important commercial data,
- oppose data retention or destruction mandates that could impact access to investigative data, and
- provide exemptions for companies working with law enforcement.

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.**

### **Drug Policy Reform and Tackling the Fentanyl Crisis**

Fentanyl and similar substances kill tens of thousands of Americans each year. **Congress should permanently schedule fentanyl related substances in Schedule I and maximize penalties for trafficking** in these killer poisons. 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. **Congress should pass the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act** to provide tools to address xylazine trafficking.

**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.

### **Extension of Counter-UAS Authorities to State and Local Governments**

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**Congress should pass legislation to extend Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Counter-UAS) authorities to state and local governments**, enabling law enforcement to combat the rising threat of drones being used for drug smuggling and other criminal operations. By granting these authorities, Congress can help ensure that local agencies are equipped to protect communities, disrupt the flow of illicit drugs, and prevent contraband from reaching prisons and other secure locations.

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