January 29, 2018

Kellyanne Conway
Counselor to the President
The White House

RE: OMB proposed shrinking of ONDCP

Dear Ms. Conway:

We the undersigned represent the major groups across all disciplines working on a comprehensive response to the drug crisis facing our nation, to include prevention, treatment, recovery supports, medicine, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform.

As you know, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) oversees and manages the Drug Free Communities (DFC) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs. DFCs provide critical drug prevention funding directly to community coalitions capable of reducing youth drug use, while the mission of the HIDTA program is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking organizations through the coordinated efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement.

According to a recent report, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is considering moving these vital programs out of the ONDCP to other federal agencies. **We strongly oppose any attempt to move either the DFC or HIDTA programs out of ONDCP.**

The DFC program is the only federal drug prevention program that goes directly to communities to deal with all of their most pressing local drug issues. It is unique, in that it requires participation of all community sectors, across the supply - demand reduction split to plan, implement and evaluate locally tailored comprehensive strategies capable of dealing with the full range of drug issues and trends. The program requires a local match in order to leverage all available resources. The DFC program has consistently reduced youth drug use in funded communities to levels lower than national averages through its data driven, comprehensive, multi-sector approach. Moving the DFC program out of ONDCP would markedly reduce its effectiveness by limiting the full range of essential partners and strategies, to include local law enforcement, needed to achieve population level reductions in youth drug use rates.

The HIDTA program is an essential component of the National Drug Control Strategy. It is clear that federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement plays an integral role in a balanced strategy to reduce drug abuse and its harmful consequences. The HIDTA program enhances and coordinates federal, state, local, and tribal anti-drug abuse efforts from a local, regional, and national perspective, leveraging resources at all levels in a true partnership. The HIDTA program gives federal, state, local and tribal criminal justice leaders a balanced and equal voice in identifying the regional threat, developing a strategy, investing in the strategy, and assessing performance. This unique feature of the HIDTA program creates the ability for each HIDTA to
quickly, effectively, and efficiently adapt to emerging threats that may be unique to a given region providing for the greatest level of impact. Moving the HIDTA program out of ONDCP would all but eliminate the balanced voice found in the long-standing law enforcement partnerships, and the many other innovative approaches that are essential components of an effective drug policy.

Not only would such a move drastically weaken these vitally important programs, and force them to compete for priority, direction, and funding in larger agencies with competing and higher priorities, but it would significantly impact ONDCP’s ability to effectively carry out its mission. ONDCP oversees federal efforts to combat every drug problem facing our nation, to include the opioid overdose epidemic, methamphetamines, synthetic drugs, cocaine, marijuana, etc., by coordinating all federal agencies responsible for reducing drug trafficking and use, and ensuring their adherence to the President’s priorities. No other agency has this unique responsibility to coordinate efforts across the federal government to execute one shared drug strategy. This oversight is instrumental in eliminating waste and fraud by preventing duplicative programs and strategies among the various federal agencies. Cutting ONDCP’s budget would significantly harm the effectiveness of this unique mission.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 63,000 Americans died of a drug overdose in 2016, a staggering 21 percent increase from 2015. With 174 people dying from drug overdose each day there is no doubt the opioid epidemic is an urgent and serious problem impacting families across our nation. This reported budget proposal would create an unnecessary distraction from efforts to save lives. We urge you to continue to allow the ONDCP to use its expertise to administer these programs with its full funding intact.

Sincerely,

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing)
Addiction Policy Forum
Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Alano Club of Portland
Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
Bangor Area Recovery Network
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
Capital Area Project VOX - Lansing Voices of Recovery
Caron Treatment Centers
Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources
Center For Youth & Community Development
Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Communities for Recovery
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois
Community Mental Health Association of Michigan
Community Oriented Correctional Health Services
Connecticut Certification Board
Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery
Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth
DarJune - Recovery Community Center & Services
Davis Direction Foundation - The Zone
Daytop New Jersey
DC Recovery Community Alliance
Detroit Recovery Project, Inc.
Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania
Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.
Drug Free Schools Coalition
Drug Prevention Resources
El Paso Alliance, Inc.
Faces & Voices of Recovery
FAVOR Grand Strand
FAVOR Greenville
FAVOR Low Country
FAVOR Mississippi Recovery Advocacy Project
FAVOR Pee Dee
FAVOR Tri-County
Fellowship Foundation
Florida Coalition Alliance
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Foundation for Recovery
Friends of NIDA
Friends of Recovery - New York
GAP House Ministries, Inc.
Georgia Council on Substance Abuse
Greater Macomb Project VOX
HOPE for New Hampshire Recovery
IJIS Institute
Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
Institute for Behavior and Health
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Jackson Area Recovery Community
Latah Recovery Center
Legal Action Center
Lifehouse Recovery Connection
Live4Lali
Long Island Recovery Association
Lost Dreams Awakening
Lotus Peer Recovery/SoberKerrville
Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
Major County Sheriffs of America
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
Mental Health Council of Arkansas
Message Carriers of Pennsylvania
Minnesota Recovery Connection
Missouri Recovery Network
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations
National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies
National Association for Children of Addiction
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Criminal Justice Association
National District Attorneys Association
National Families in Action
National Fusion Center Association
National Narcotic Officers’ Associations’ Coalition
National Safety Council
Navigate Recovery
Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
Northeast Community Springboard Coalition
Northern Ohio Recovery Association
Oklahoma Behavioral Health Association
Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and Treatment Association
Partnership for Drug-Free Kids
Peer Coach Academy Colorado
Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together
Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A)
People Advocating Recovery
Phoenix Multisport
Portland Recovery Community Center
RECOVER Project Western Massachusetts Training Consortium
Recover Wyoming
Recovery Alliance of Austin
Recovery Allies Of West Michigan
Recovery Café
Recovery Communities of North Carolina
Recovery Community of Durham
Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
Recovery Data Solutions
Recovery Epicenter Foundation
Recovery Force of Atlantic County
Recovery is Happening
Recovery Organization of Support Specialist
Recovery, Education, Advocacy, & Leadership (REAL) Michigan
Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts
Rochester Recovery Community Center
ROCovery Fitness
Rosenthal Center
Safe Harbor Recovery Center Granite Pathways
Shatterproof
SHIELDs for Families
Smart Approaches to Marijuana
SMART Recovery
Solutions Recovery
SOS Recovery Community Organization
SpiritWorks Foundation
Springs Recovery Connection
STEP Industries
Strategic Applications International
Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow
Student Assistance Services
T.O.R.C.H Inc.
The Bridge Foundation
The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana
The DOOR - DeKalb Open Opportunity for Recovery
The Gerontological Society of America
The McShin Foundation
The Moyer Foundation
The National Association for Rural Mental Health
The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
The National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Directors' Association
The Ohana Center for Recovery
The RASE Project
The Serenity House of Flint
The Solano Project/Unity Hall
Tia Hart Community Recovery Program
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities
Treatment Communities of America
Trilogy Recovery Community
Trust for America's Health
UMARC (United Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Coalition)
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Utah County SMART Coalition
Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA)
Vermont Recovery Network
Voices of Hope for Cecil County
Voices of Recovery San Mateo County
WAI-IAM, Inc. and RISE Recovery Community
Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project (WRAP)
WestCare
Wisconsin Recovery Community Organization (WIRCO)
Wisconsin Voices for Recovery

CC: Director Mick Mulvaney, White House Office of Management and Budget
    Andrew Bremberg, Director of the Domestic Policy Council