



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

June 18, 2025

**MICHAEL McHALE**  
President  
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Office of National Drug Control Policy  
The White House  
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Washington, DC 20500

VIA EMAIL: [Strategy@ondcp.eop.gov](mailto:Strategy@ondcp.eop.gov)

### **RE: Input on 2026 National Drug Control Strategy**

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am submitting comments for consideration for the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) development of the President's 2026 *National Drug Control Strategy (Strategy)*.

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's rank-and-file law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations and approximately 250,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

NAPO supports the tenets of the Trump Administration's Drug Policy Priorities, which were published on April 1, 2025, and will be used as the foundation of the 2026 *Strategy*:

- Reduce the Number of Overdose Fatalities, with a Focus on Fentanyl
- Secure the Global Supply Chain Against Drug Trafficking
- Stop the Flow of Drugs Across our Borders and into Our Communities
- Prevent Drug Use Before It Starts
- Provide Treatment That Leads to Long-Term Recovery
- Innovate in Research and Data to Support Drug Control Strategies

State and local law enforcement will play a significant role in helping the Administration realize these objectives and need additional training, resources, and equipment to effectively assist in these efforts.

### Detecting and Containing Fentanyl

Fentanyl is now the drug most associated with overdoses in the United States. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), 5 out of 10 counterfeit prescription drugs seized by law enforcement in 2024 were laced with a deadly dose of fentanyl.

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The amount of fentanyl the DEA seized in 2024 – nearly 8,000 pounds – represents over 367 million deadly doses.

As part of the *Strategy*, NAPO supports providing state and local law enforcement access to funding to assist agencies in purchasing chemical screening devices, much like the screening equipment Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have successfully used to stop fentanyl at the border, and give them resources to help safeguard officers in the field from possible deadly exposure.

Further, NAPO supports allowing grant funds under the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program to be used for purchasing containment devices for first responders and training first responders on the use of these devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances.

Helping state and local law enforcement agencies acquire such equipment and train their officers on it would support their efforts to conduct drug investigations and prosecute drug crimes while keeping officers safe.

#### Combating Online Sales of Fentanyl and Illicit Drugs

Fentanyl is being mixed with other illicit drugs, hidden in counterfeit drugs, and being peddled at alarmingly high rates to our nation's youth, particularly over social media. It is vital that the federal government provide resources to law enforcement, schools, families, and victims to combat and deter sales of fentanyl on social media and to educate communities on the dangers of this illicit drug.

Specifically, the *Strategy* should provide for the arrest and prosecution of individuals who use social media platforms as a primary source of marketing or distributing of illicit drugs. It should also support the provision of education and training, including online training resources, to school personnel, clinicians, and the public in order to educate them on the dangers of using drugs purchased over a social media platform and on commonly used methods of communication between online drug dealers and potential victims.

#### Closing the De Minimis Loophole

The *Strategy* should include the permanent closure of the Section 321 *de minimis* loophole in U.S. trade law that is facilitating the importation of millions of pounds of fentanyl and other illicit drugs to the U.S. market.

As law enforcement officers, our members are on the front lines, and they see firsthand the destructive impact fentanyl has in our communities. Our officers work hard to keep it and other dangerous drugs off the streets and out of our neighborhoods, but they are fighting a losing battle if Chinese drug smugglers can continue to circumvent our trade laws and ship hundreds of thousands of packages of fentanyl directly into our country.

The *de minimis* loophole is severely exacerbating the opioid crisis and contributing to deaths in our country by allowing fentanyl, other illegal opioids, and related contraband to enter our market duty free and largely uninspected.

The Section 321 *de minimis* provision, which was first established under the Tariff Act of 1930, has failed to keep up with the modern marketplace and the explosion of e-commerce shipments of individually packaged goods from around the globe that are sent directly to American consumers. It is an outdated provision that has become a dangerous gateway that allows millions of direct mail shipments of illicit narcotics from anywhere in the world to enter the U.S. market virtually uninspected, destroying families and entire communities and overwhelming law enforcement agencies, like those that NAPO represents.

Eliminating *de minimis* e-commerce shipments will help staunch the surge of illicit narcotics that are exploiting this loophole to wreak havoc across the country, and ease the burden on our law enforcement resources, which are stretched thin among a multitude of priority areas.

#### Funding State and Local Law Enforcement Drug Task Forces

The Department of Justice (DOJ), through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), has two competitive grant programs that support state and local drug task forces: the Anti-Heroin Task Force Program (AHTF) and the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP).

AHTF is for law enforcement agencies in states with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, and other opioids. CAMP is for law enforcement agencies in states with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures for the purpose of locating or investigating illicit activities, such as precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers. The goal of these programs is to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies at the state and local levels to address heroin and opioid abuse and methamphetamine activities through improving investigations.

The work state and local law enforcement has been able to accomplish with funding from AHTF and CAMP as resulted in increased arrests, referrals, prosecutions, and ultimately convictions of these drug-related crimes as well as increased the number of and the size of drug seizures.

The President's 2026 *Strategy* should promote and use effective programs such as the COPS Office's AHTF and CAMP to support state and local law enforcements' efforts to interdict illicit drugs in our communities.

#### Supporting and Maintaining HIDTA Program Under ONDCP

ONDCP is a key component in bringing federal, state, local, and tribal governments together and fostering law enforcement, treatment and prevention partnerships. The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program under ONDCP plays an essential role in the nation's drug control strategy. The success of HIDTA is touted by key law enforcement, treatment and prevention stakeholders across the nation due to its ability to seamlessly operate on the local, regional, and national levels coordinating resources to address our nation's drug epidemic.

The *Strategy* should support the reauthorization and fully funding for the HIDTA Program and maintain it within ONDCP with additional flexibility and resources to fully take on the deadly fentanyl and opioid epidemic our communities are facing. This Program is a vital aspect of ONDCP's work and it is best administered by the Office given its unbiased and neutral position.

Further, ONDCP's Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program, which has supported communities in addressing the drug crisis through treatment and prevention, must be bolstered as part of the 2026 *Strategy*.

We appreciate your consideration. If NAPO can provide any additional information on our comments, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775 or [bjohnson@napo.org](mailto:bjohnson@napo.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Johnson', followed by a horizontal line.

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Executive Director

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