

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

July 8, 2014

Director R. Gil Kerlikowske
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Director Kerlikowske:

I am writing in support of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) application submitted on behalf of Dutchess, Putnam, and Rockland counties.

As you are aware, the use of heroin and opioids has skyrocketed in recent years, and is harming countless individuals throughout the country. More specifically, my Congressional District has seen an alarming increase not only in the abuse of these drugs, but also in their distribution and other associated criminal activity. Drug related arrests have nearly doubled in each of the counties applying for the HIDTA designation in the past few years. Of the arrests made, several cases have involved the seizure of significant quantities of heroin and prescription pain medication. Heroin has become the most commonly abused illegal substance in the State of New York because it is inexpensive and easily accessible. In fact, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), found that nearly twenty percent (20%) of all heroin seized by authorities has come from New York, which illustrates that this region is a major distribution hub for the drug.

In order to curb this rampant and increasing drug problem, I urge you to designate the entire Hudson Valley area as a HIDTA region. This designation would allow the regional HIDTA office to work collaboratively across the Hudson Valley and address this growing problem in a comprehensive and geographic manner. If approved, this designation will ensure that local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies have the additional and critical tools they need to address the current crisis in combatting drug trafficking and abuse in our communities.

I would like to thank you for your continued dedication and efforts to improving the health and safety of our communities, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress