

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
2078 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
2412 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Womack:

We write in strong support of funding the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program at \$110 million in FY 2022 (\$3 million above the FY 2021 appropriated amount). We also ask that you include \$2.5 million from within the total amount appropriated for the DFC program (level with the FY 2021 appropriated amount) to fund the training and technical assistance component of the program, as specifically authorized in section 8204 of P.L. 115-271. Finally, consistent with the Congressional intent outlined in the SUPPORT Act, we request that the DFC program, along with the Community Based Coalition Enhancement Grant program (Section 103) of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) (P.L. 114-198) remain at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

As our states continue to combat the opioid, stimulant and youth vaping epidemics, the Drug-Free Communities program has been an effective tool in reducing youth substance use. According to independent research in communities where DFC coalitions exist, rates of past 30-day use among middle school students for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana declined by 12%, 36% and 8%, respectively. Among high school students, rates for alcohol, tobacco marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 24%, 39%, 7% and 30% respectively.<sup>1</sup> Currently, 733 communities across the nation have Drug-Free Communities Coalitions that provide support to 2.4 million middle school and 3.4 million high school students.

The Drug-Free Communities Program is structured to ensure effectiveness, outcomes, and sustainability. It requires a community to demonstrate local commitment before becoming eligible to receive federal funds. This includes participation from at least 12 sectors in the community. All grantees are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match in non-federal funds, up to the maximum amount of \$125,000 per year. The required emphasis on local data collection, community buy-in and participation among multiple sectors is central to DFC coalitions' success. This emphasis also allows DFC coalitions to respond effectively at the local level to all new and emerging drug trends, such as meth, cocaine, opioids, fentanyl, other synthetic drugs and the youth vaping epidemic.

The national evaluation for the DFC program has had impressive results. These are due to ONDCP's consistent, high-level leadership and commitment in managing all the policy level components of the program, including prioritizing data collection and analysis to enable the DFC program to show both national level outcomes for the entire program and local outcomes for every grantee.

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<sup>1</sup> ICF International, the Drug-Free Communities Support Program National Evaluation Team. "National Evaluation of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program Key Findings from the Forthcoming (2021) Report." January 2021. Page 1.

Moving the DFC and CARA section 103 enhancement grant programs out of ONDCP and into the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) would have a negative impact on the program's administration. Specifically, this move into the CDC would undermine several legal requirements of the program that ensure both its cost effectiveness and direct relationship between the federal and community levels. Furthermore, moving this critical program out of ONDCP's jurisdiction would severely impact the program's effectiveness by limiting its essential partners and strategies and force the program to compete with other non-drug prevention priorities for funding.

We urge you to fund the Drug-Free Communities program in FY 2022 at \$110 million and leave the program intact and fully funded in ONDCP. This will ensure the maximum number of communities are equipped to effectively reduce all types of youth substance use and have the evaluation results to prove it.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

**Additional Signatories:**

/s/  
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

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David B. McKinley P.E.  
Member of Congress

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Teresa Leger Fernández  
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
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Val B. Demings  
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David N. Cicilline  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Mondaire Jones  
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Seth Moulton  
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Jahana Hayes  
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Madeleine Dean  
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Adam Smith  
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Carolyn Bourdeaux  
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James P. McGovern  
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Joyce Beatty  
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Chris Jacobs  
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
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Bobby L. Rush  
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Cliff Bentz  
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Aumua Amata Coleman  
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Ted Budd  
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John Katko  
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Tom O'Halleran  
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John B. Larson  
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Rodney Davis  
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Andrew R. Garbarino  
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Joe Courtney  
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Jared Golden  
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Don Bacon  
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Julia Brownley  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
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Christopher H. Smith  
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

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Debbie Dingell  
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A. Donald McEachin  
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Danny K. Davis  
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Elissa Slotkin  
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André Carson  
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David Rouzer  
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Peter Welch  
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Brian Higgins  
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Claudia Tenney  
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Robin L. Kelly  
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Mike Thompson  
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Mike Levin  
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Ron Kind  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

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Abigail D. Spanberger  
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Jake Auchincloss  
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Marilyn Strickland  
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John Yarmuth  
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
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