

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 10, 2026

The Honorable Bill Hagerty  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hagerty and Ranking Member Reed:

We write in strong support of funding the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program, authorized by section 8203 of Subtitle K of the SUPPORT Act (P.L. 115-271) at the highest possible level in FY 2027. We also ask that you include \$2.5 million from within the total amount appropriated in FY 2027 for the DFC program (level with the final FY 2026 appropriated amount) to fund the training and technical assistance component of the program, as specifically authorized in section 8204 of P.L.115-271.

We oppose any proposals to move the DFC program out of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the jurisdiction of the FSGG appropriations subcommittee into the Department of Health and Human Services. Such a move would put this highly effective substance use prevention program's funding at great risk.

As communities continue to combat the fentanyl, other opioids, stimulant and polydrug epidemics facing our nation, the DFC program has been an extremely cost-effective tool in reducing youth substance use to levels much lower than those in non-funded communities. According to independent research, in communities where DFC coalitions exist, rates of past 30-day substance use among middle school students for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 28.6%, 18.5%, 23.5%, and 23.1% respectively among FY 2023 DFC coalitions.

Among high school students, past 30-day use rates for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by 35.7%, 42.2%, 30.9%, and 45.5% respectively among FY 2023 DFC coalitions. In 2024, there were DFC coalitions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three U.S. territories (Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). An estimated 63 million people live in communities served by DFC coalitions that received funding in 2024. This includes approximately 2 million middle school youth and 3 million high school youth.

The DFC 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 of 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 existing drug trends, such as meth, cocaine, opioids, fentanyl, other synthetic drugs and youth vaping.

Substance use prevention to stop and delay substance use is already underfunded and underutilized relative to its ability to address the costs and consequences of drug use. Given that the DFC program has demonstrated major results in reducing youth drug use with tiny investments of federal funds at the community level, it is imperative that the program and its funding be protected.

We urge you to fund the Drug-Free Communities program at the highest possible level in FY 2027 and to keep the program in ONDCP and funded in the FSGG appropriations subcommittee. This will ensure that the maximum number of communities around the country are optimally equipped to reduce population levels of youth substance use and demonstrate effectiveness through data driven outcomes.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Paul Relyea in Senator Grassley's office at [Paul\\_Relyea@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Paul_Relyea@judiciary-rep.senate.gov) or Michael Kans in Senator Shaheen's office at [Michael.Kans@shaheen.senate.gov](mailto:Michael.Kans@shaheen.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



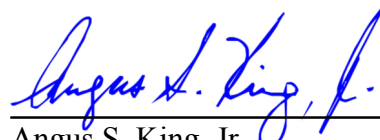
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



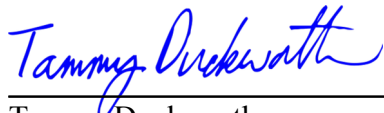
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

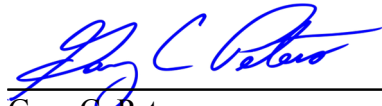


Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



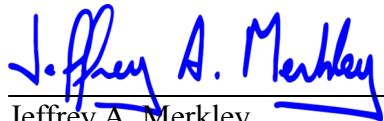
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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



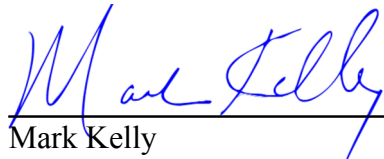
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



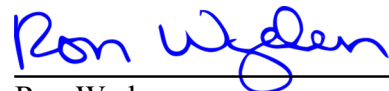
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



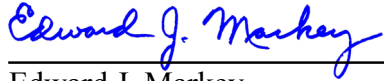
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Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



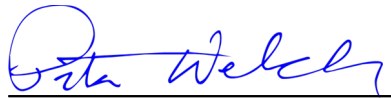
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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



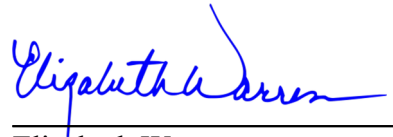
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



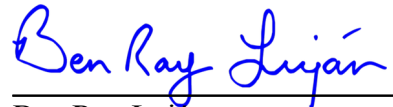
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator