

# United States Senate

June 22, 2021

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Van Hollen and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

We write in strong support of funding the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Program, most recently reauthorized by section 8203 of Subtitle K of the SUPPORT Act (P.L. 115-271), and the training and technical assistance authorized by section 8204 of the Act from within the appropriated amount for this program at the highest possible level in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. For FY 2021, these programs were funded at \$102 million and \$2.5 million.

In the midst of the devastating drug overdose epidemic, the DFC Program warrants the highest possible funding level because it has proven effective in reducing youth substance use. According to independent research in communities where DFC coalitions exist, rates of past thirty-day use among middle school students for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana declined by twelve, thirty-six, and eight percent, respectively. Among high school students, rates for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs declined by twenty-four, thirty-nine, seven, and thirty percent, respectively. (ICF International, National Evaluation of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, March 2021 Report)

DFC coalitions exist in 733 communities across the nation and provide support to 2.4 million middle school students and 3.4 million high school students. The program requires a community to demonstrate local commitment before it is eligible to receive federal funds, which means that at least twelve sectors within the community must come together to plan and implement evidence-based programs that will meet the community's unique needs in reducing drug use. All grantees are required to provide a dollar-for-dollar match in non-federal funds up to the maximum grant amount of \$125,000 per year. The required emphasis on local data collection, community buy-in, and participation among multiple sectors is central to the DFC coalitions' success and allows grantees to respond effectively to emerging drug trends.

For these reasons, we urge you to fund the DFC Program at the highest possible level in FY 2022. This will ensure that the maximum number of communities are equipped to effectively reduce all types of youth drug use and have the evaluation results to prove it.

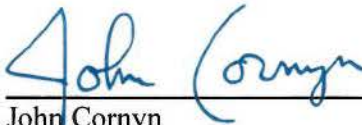
Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall M.D.  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senate



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senate



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



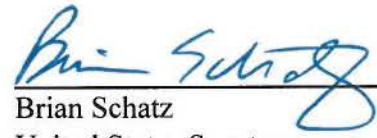
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



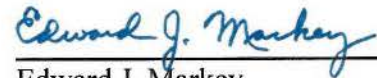
Alex Padilla  
United States Senate




Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



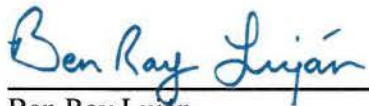
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator