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NDAA Legislative Priorities for the 119th Congress

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) is the oldest and largest association of prosecutors in the country with over 6,000 members. The NDAA represents state and local prosecutors' offices in urban and rural districts and is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function. NDAA strongly advocates for practical, fair, and bipartisan proposals that support community leaders and enhance public safety. NDAA's top legislative priorities in the 119th Congress include: strengthening the hiring, training, and retention of prosecutors; providing a stable revenue stream for the Crime Victims Fund; and combating the opioid crisis.

Prosecutor Recruitment and Retention

The NDAA has worked with Representatives and Senators to introduce a bill that will establish a federal grant program to assist in the hiring, training, and retention of prosecutors at the state and local level. District Attorney offices are facing hiring and retaining challenges across the nation, regardless of region or size of office. In some instances, DA offices are operating well below capacity with positions vacant for over a year.

Position: NDAA supports the Helping Improve the Recruitment and Retention Efforts of (HIRRE) Prosecutors Act.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Funding

VOCA is the primary source of federal funding for thousands of victim/survivor service providers across the nation who serve millions of victims and survivors each year. VOCA funding supports programs assisting those that have suffered from domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving, among other crimes. VOCA grants also fund restitution, which helps survivors pay medical bills, makes up for missed wages, and, in the most severe cases, helps pay for funeral costs.

Position: NDAA supports increased funding for VOCA, as well as the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act.

Combating the Opioid Crisis & Other Illicit Drugs

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicates there were over 107,000 drug overdose deaths in 2023. Synthetic opioid overdoses, primarily Fentanyl, have been an on-going and serious issue in many communities across the nation. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) stated that fentanyl overdoses are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18-45. However, fentanyl is currently only *temporarily* a Schedule I drug of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). While fentanyl may be the illicit drug that garners the most public attention at this time, there still needs to be the proper attention towards other illicit drugs that are destroying communities and taking the lives of individuals. NDAA is committed to assisting in efforts to curb the abuse of meth, cocaine, and other dangerous drugs.



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Position: NDAA supports the HALT Fentanyl Act which would permanently place fentanyl and fentanyl analogues into Schedule I of the CSA. NDAA also supports the Pill Press Act which requires all pill presses be engraved with a serial number and establishes penalties to be assessed with knowledge of a removed or altered serial number.



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Additional NDAA Advocacy Priorities

NDAA supports reasonable and balanced approaches to criminal justice system improvements and reforms. To promote safe and prosperous communities, many areas of need must be addressed. The following issue areas are of great interest to our membership.

PROTECT Our Children Reauthorization Act

The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) Program helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. ICACs are involved in investigations, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education for online child sexual exploitation. The reauthorization bill provides a much-needed increase in funding from \$60M to \$70M for the first year, \$80M for next, and \$90M for the following. In addition to increasing the authorized appropriation amount, the bill also updates and modernizes the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction to include more timely and pertinent information to protect children online. The bill also allows ICACs to engage in both proactive and reactive investigations and provides liability protection when ICACs conduct criminal investigations of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

The NDAA recommends Members of Congress cosponsor the PROTECT Our Children Reauthorization Act.

Other Online Child Safety Bills

The consistent rise of online child sexual exploitation endangers our communities' most vulnerable population—children. In 2023, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) received 36.2 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation online. Reports of online enticement increased by more than 300% between 2021 and 2023. In order to combat online enticement and sexual exploitation of children, federal law needs to hold online platforms responsible for what happens on their sites. Additional funding and resources for law enforcement and child-serving organizations to adequately pursue offenders and provide support services to survivors is also essential.

The NDAA supports several child safety bills including: The EARN IT Act, Child Online Safety Modernization Act, Project Safe Childhood Act, STOP CSAM Act, and the Criminalize AI Child Exploitation Act.



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Curbing Retail Crime

Since 2022, NDAA has partnered with the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) to combat retail crime. The NDAA/RILA partnership has successfully brought together leading retailers and district attorneys' offices to discuss common challenges, share information on offenders, and identify criminal networks. NDAA and RILA urge Congress to adopt measures to drive down habitual theft, promote best practices for investigation collaboration, and help retailer implement anti-theft technology.

The NDAA supports the Combat Organized Retail Crime Theft Act and welcomes additional legislation to combat organized retail crime.