



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 2015

Dear Madam Chairman:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), representing 3,081 sheriffs nationwide, we write to express our opposition to Representative Espaillat's amendment included in the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations bill now moving to your Committee. Representative Espaillat's amendment places handcuffs on law enforcement by denying them access to lawful data generated by other parties that we use daily to protect our counties, communities, and victims.

This data is critical to sheriffs' efforts that result in seizure of significant volumes of illicit drugs using HIDTA interdiction. Not only does this amendment seek to place HIDTA arrests out of bounds, but it would also undermine the use of data that is essential to combating other serious crimes. Sheriffs are charged with protecting their constituents, and taking away one of most critical tools used to address increasingly complex crimes seems foolish at best.

NSA objects to this amendment being jammed into the bill without notification or any discussion with sheriffs. We urge the Rules Committee to slow the process down and allow sheriffs a voice in these deliberations. Sheriffs must have the tools necessary to protect their communities, safeguard public safety, and defend the most vulnerable victims from increasingly sophisticated criminal activity.

We stand ready and willing to engage in an open and constructive discussion on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris West".

Sheriff Chris West  
Canadian County, OK  
President  
National Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Smith".

Justin Smith  
Executive Director, CEO  
National Sheriffs' Association