

United States Senate

SENATE CAUCUS ON
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 818-C
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 15, 2021

Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

As you appoint Treasury attachés and Foreign Financial Intelligence Unit Liaisons in major drug-producing or transit countries and major laundering jurisdictions pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291h, we urge you to ensure they have expertise in narcotics-related finance, along with other money laundering issues.

Drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) perpetuate crime and corruption, which undermines the rule of law, erodes democratic institutions, and threatens U.S. national security. These criminal groups rely on illicit finance and money laundering to turn their ill-gotten proceeds into legitimate funds that are then used to further their destabilizing operations. Deploying U.S. financial experts to nations that are drug-producing or transit countries will help dismantle DTOs' financial networks. Eliminating these networks will hinder their capacity to traffic deadly narcotics into the United States.

Sections 6106 and 6108 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorize Treasury to deploy up to six attachés and six Foreign Financial Intelligence Unit Liaisons to partner nations to combat illicit finance and strengthen anti-money laundering programs. Treasury should direct any attachés and liaisons authorized by these sections of the FY 21 NDAA, who are stationed in countries that are designated as major drug-producing, transit-country, or major money laundering jurisdictions, to address narcotics-related finance in addition to broader money laundering issues. These attachés and liaisons should also consult with the host nation's counternarcotics officials to better understand the methodologies used by local DTOs, including the most common methods such as bulk cash smuggling and trade-based money laundering. Such personnel should also have experience in developing and implementing programs intended to collect and disseminate beneficial ownership information, as DTOs routinely exploit current law to launder illicit funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to dismantle the illicit drug trade, which threatens our shared goals of promoting the rule of law and fighting corruption.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
Chairman



Charles E. Grassley
Co-Chairman

CC: Himamauli "Him" Das, Acting Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network