



**RETAIL
ASSOCIATION OF
MAINE**
Voice of Maine Retail

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February 17, 2021

Senator Stacey Brenner, Chair
Representative Ralph Tucker, Chair
Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Re: Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 8, An Act To Support Collection and Proper Disposal of Unwanted Drugs

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. The Retail Association of Maine (RAM) has members statewide of all sizes. I'm speaking to you today neither for nor against LD 8 on behalf of our Community Pharmacy Group members.

As veteran members of this committee know, this bill was one of the most discussed and revised bills that I have ever worked on. This bill started as LD 1460 in the 129th, and it had seven work sessions; was carried over and was reconsidered one time as well. It was a very challenging process getting to the language that is proposed in LD 8, which is identical to the final version that passed out of this committee in the 129th.

I appreciate Senator Carney reaching out to me regarding this bill. We met at the beginning of January to discuss it, and I also spoke with Honorable Geoff Gratwick yesterday. I told them both the same thing that I am saying today and why we are testifying neither for nor against.

Pharmacists and Maine's chain and independent pharmacies have been on the front lines of fighting the COVID-19 from day one. Health care is stressed to the max from COVID-19 cases, testing and vaccines and pharmacies are no exception. Early on, when Maine's economy was virtually shut down, Maine's pharmacies kept operating and handled a rush of customers seeking prescription refills when supply chains were disrupted and people were hoarding things like toilet paper. More recently, our pharmacists are focused on administering vaccines wherever and whenever they can. If you listen to any of Dr. Shah's press conferences, you will hear him talk about the good work pharmacies are doing to help vaccinate Mainers.

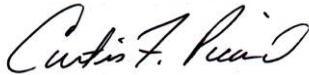
With that being said, our members have told us that LD 8 is just not a priority for them right now. We aren't opposed to the bill, but they neither have the time or the energy to support an expanded program right now. They want us to focus on making sure they are recognized as

health care providers and to make sure they are authorized to practice at the top of their licenses to help get us through the pandemic.

That does not mean that the work of collecting and properly disposing of unused medications is not happening. Attached to my testimony is the results of Maine's recent prescription drug collection day (October 24, 2020). This event happens twice a year in Maine. Maine had 144 total collection sites which measures up very well against states with much larger populations. Maine collected 40,148 lbs of medications (compared to NY's 31,917 lbs, CA's 52,808 lbs, or FL's 38,175 lbs). Maine is always the top state for collection amounts per capita. In addition to these events, Maine has nearly 100 collection kiosks at various law enforcement and pharmacy locations.

I have quite a bit of history with this bill, and I am happy to continue to be a resource as you discuss it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis F. Picard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Curtis Picard, CAE
President and CEO

19th National Take Back Day

October 24, 2020

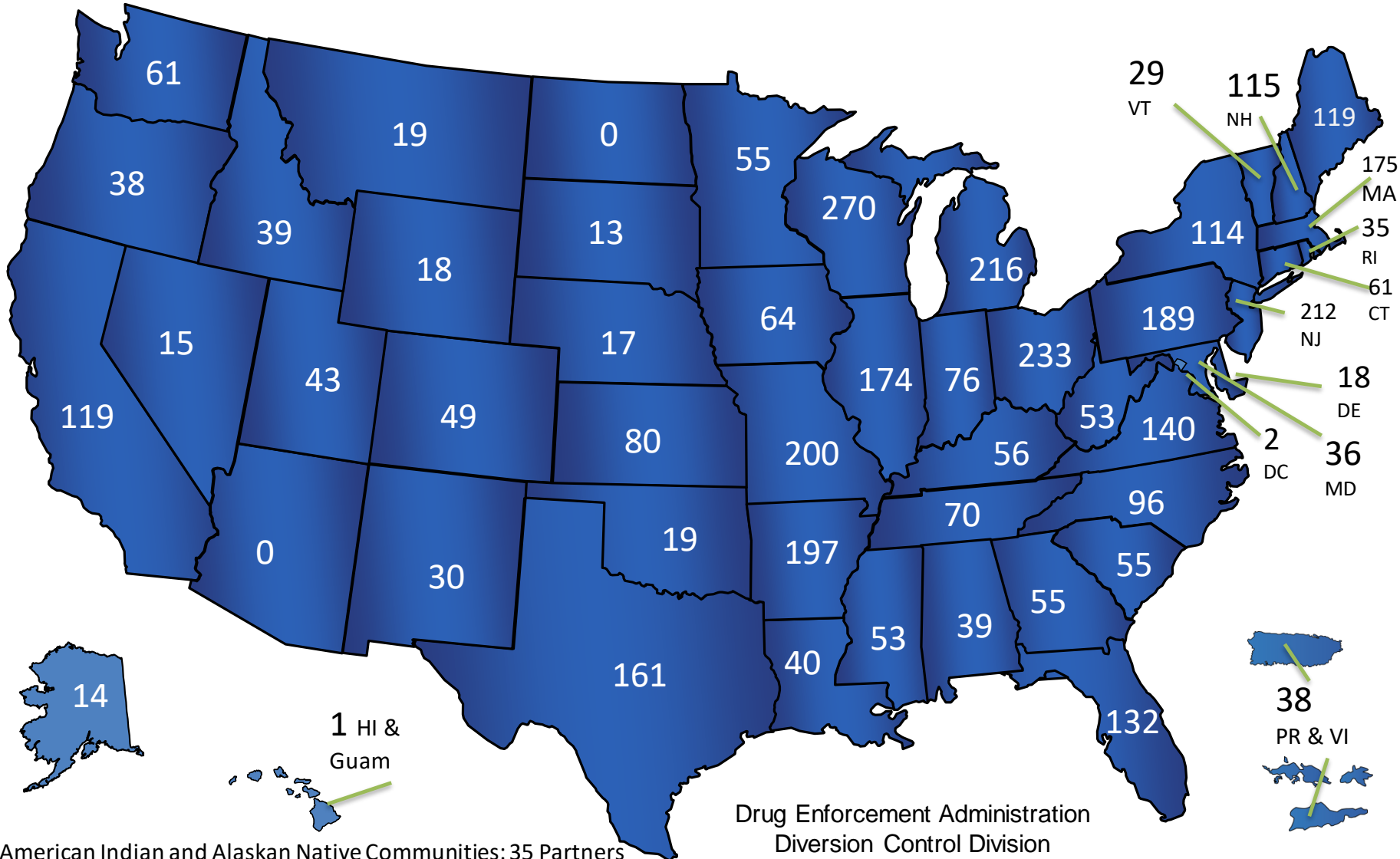


DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION
DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION



19th National Take Back Day: October 24, 2020

Total Law Enforcement Participation: 4,153

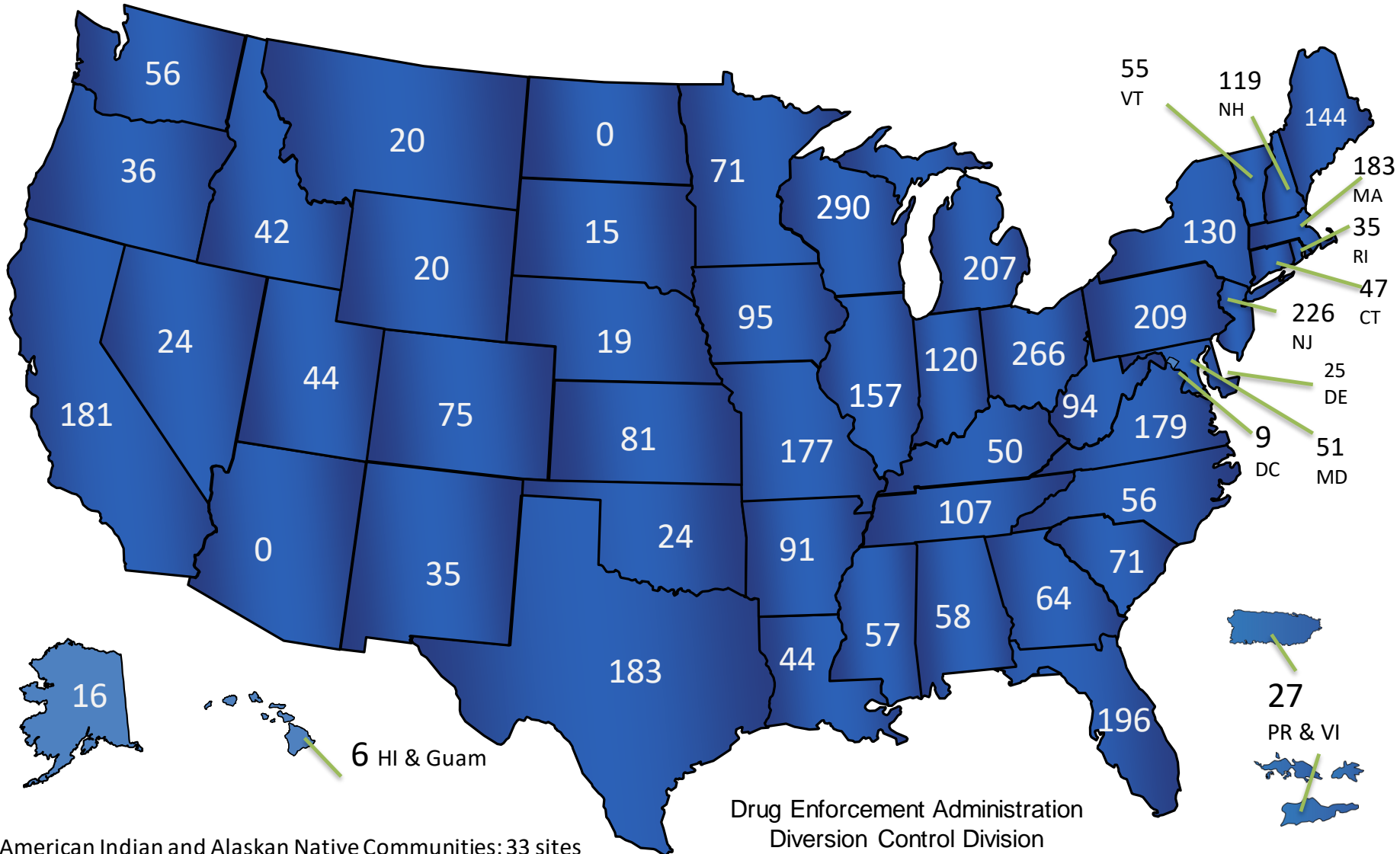


*American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities: 35 Partners

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division

19th National Take Back Day: October 24, 2020

Total Collection Sites: 4,587

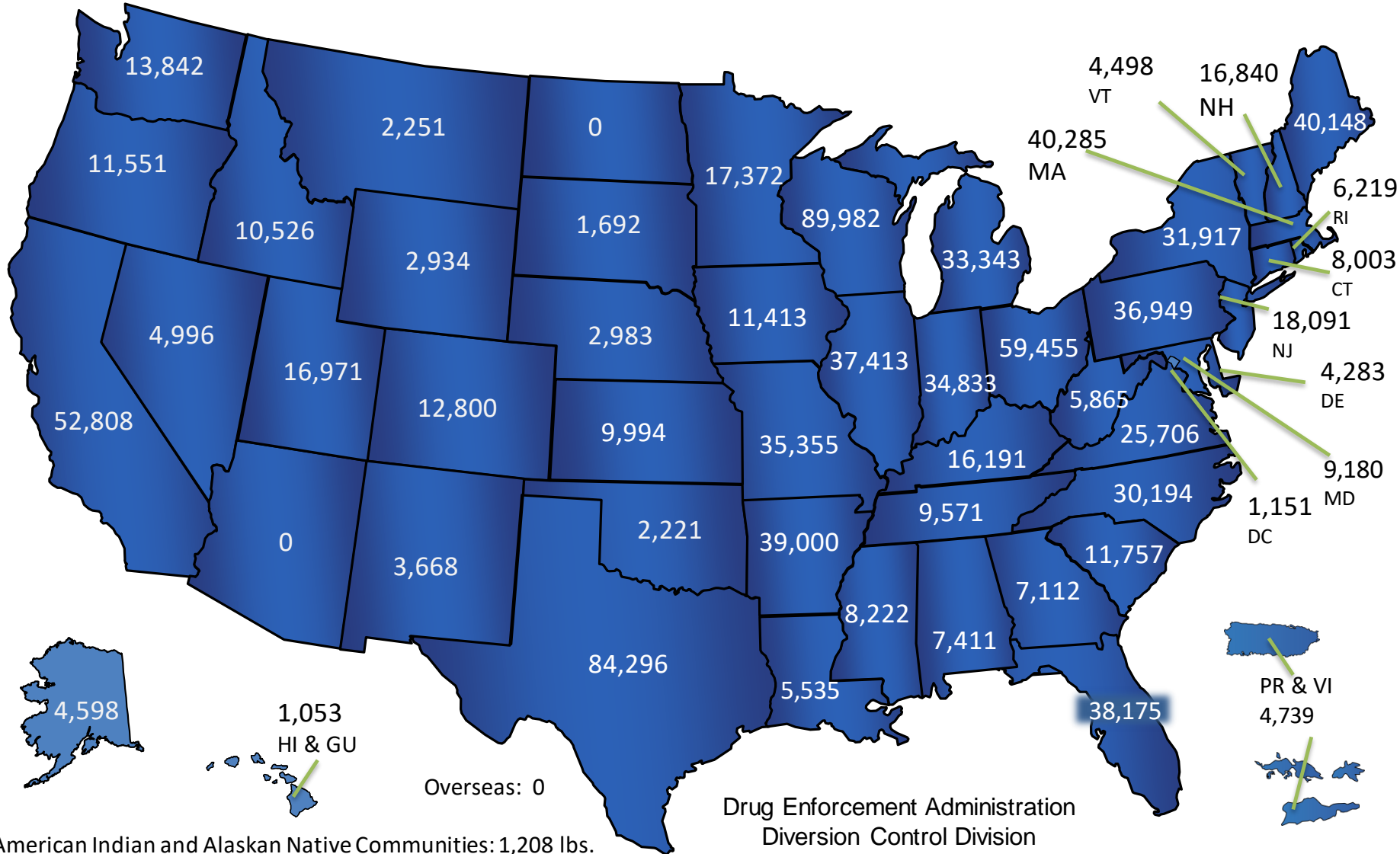


*American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities: 33 sites

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division

19th National Take Back Day: October 24, 2020

Total Weight Collected: 985,392 lbs. (492.7 Tons)

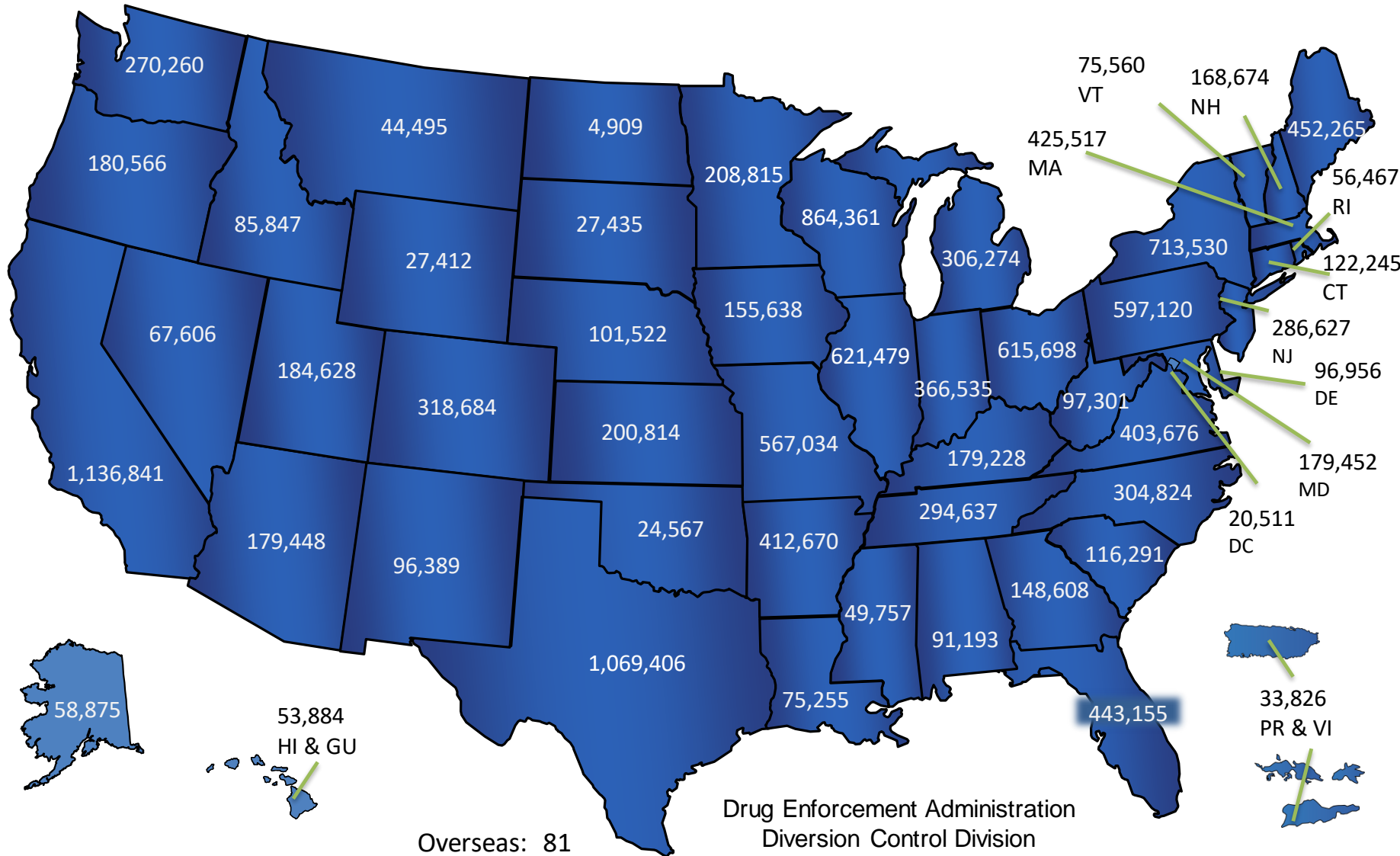


*American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities: 1,208 lbs.

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division

National Take Back 1-19 Totals:

Total Weight Collected: 13,684,848 lbs. (6,842.4 Tons)



Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division