

September 11, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-224  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-152  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Ranking Members Grassley:

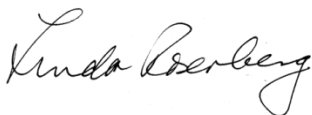
On behalf of the 750,000 staff treating 8 million people served by our 2,250 member organizations of the National Council for Behavioral Health, I am writing to urge you to swiftly confirm Mr. Michael Botticelli as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). ONDCP needs a leader that can successfully and competently implement the National Drug Control Strategy thus reducing the impact of drugs on communities across this great country. The National Council for Behavioral Health firmly believes that Mr. Botticelli is ably qualified to lead this important task.

Drug use affects every sector of society, straining our economy, our healthcare and criminal justice systems, and endangering the futures of young people. The recent spread of opioid and heroin addiction and death by overdose has made the critical tasks of prevention, treatment and interdiction of paramount importance to every community across our country.

Mr. Botticelli has an impressive career in the field of substance use prevention and treatment that has resulted in a unique combination of experience, vision, and passion that would benefit our nation. He served with distinction as the Director of Substance Abuse Services in Massachusetts, an experience that has provided him with extensive knowledge of federal and state substance abuse prevention and treatment systems. During his tenure as Acting Director of ONDCP, Mr. Botticelli has amply demonstrated his fitness to take on the permanent Director role.

The National Council for Behavioral Health strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Michael Botticelli to serve as the Director of ONDCP. We look forward to swift confirmation of his nomination.

Sincerely,



Linda Rosenberg, MSW, CSW  
President and CEO