



**Member Organizations**

National Bar Association

Association of  
Black Psychologists

National Association of  
Black Social Workers, Inc.

Howard University  
School of Law

Congressional Black Caucus  
Foundation, Inc.

National Dental Association

National Black Caucus of  
State Legislators

Association of  
Black Sociologists

National Black Nurses  
Association, Inc.

National Organization of  
Black Law Enforcement  
Executives

National Association of  
Blacks in Criminal Justice

National Black Alcoholism &  
Addictions Council, Inc.

Black Administrators in  
Child Welfare, Inc.

Association of  
Black Health-System  
Pharmacists

National Medical Association

National Black Police  
Association

National Alliance of Black  
School Educators

National Institute for Law and  
Equity

National Conference of Black  
Political Scientists

Black Psychiatrists of  
America, Inc.

National Black Prosecutors  
Association

National Organization of  
African Americans in  
Housing

Thurgood Marshall Action  
Coalition

November 11, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Patrick Leahy and Ranking Member Charles Grassley:

As Vice President of Administration and the National Executive Director of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. and its National Spokesperson, we are writing to express our strongest support for Michael Botticelli's nomination to serve as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and we urge that the Senate Judiciary Committee expeditiously hold his confirmation hearing and recommend to the Senate he be confirmed for this most important position especially during this controversial time of the movement towards decriminalization and legalization of marijuana and how we deal with drug offenses in general in this Nation.

As the lead representative of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. during the past three (3) years I have had many occasions to interact with him and to discuss policy matters. I know that he is deeply committed to a public health approach to dealing with addiction and drug dependency and related mental and emotional problems of such individuals, and that his passion and commitment to make all possible resources available to support treatment, but at the same time not to compromise the need for strong law enforcement against those individuals who prey on the weaknesses of these individuals and profiteer on increasing the number of addicted individuals and debilitating more and more weak individuals who fall prey to their messaging and pushing distribution in poor neighborhoods taking advantage of their depression and frustrations.

I am more than confident that he fully shares the view that those persons who profiteer on the weaknesses of such persons should be prosecuted to the maximum extent allowed by the law. We are also confident that he strongly supports the effective work of Drug Courts and Veterans Drug Courts and would desire that even more financial support could be provided to these courts during this time of economic constraints and restrictions on how much debt this Nation can support.

Letter to Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary and  
Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
United States Senate

Dated November 11, 2014

Page 2

We can say with the utmost confidence and without reservation that the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. and its Member Organizations strongly and unequivocally support the nomination of Michael Botticelli and that he endeavors to achieve that right balance between treatment for the victims of drug addiction and dependency and strong and effective law enforcement action against all person who endeavor to profiteer on these weaknesses and take advantage of them for their own financial gain.

We, without reservation, urge his prompt confirmation hearing and confirmation by the United Senate so that he may move forward with a most effective and expeditious operation of the Office of National Drug Control Policy,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur L. Burnett, Sr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.

Vice President of Administration  
& National Executive Director