

November 12, 2014

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

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

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Oversight,
Federal Rights and Agency Actions
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight,
Federal Rights and Agency Actions
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Senator Grassley, Chairwoman Hirono and Senator Hatch:

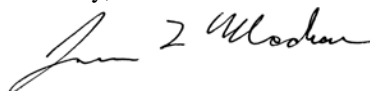
On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA), I want to enthusiastically support the nomination of Michael P. Botticelli for the position of Director of National Drug Control Policy.

Since joining the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in 2012 as Deputy Director, Mr. Botticelli has made a significant impact on the important issues facing this critical agency. Throughout Mr. Botticelli's tenure at ONDCP, the AMA has found him very willing to hear all sides, encourage dialogue with stakeholders on key issues, and craft imaginative solutions. As Acting Director, Mr. Botticelli has personally brought together the diverse agencies that are working to address the national epidemic of prescription opioid abuse, diversion, overdose and death to ensure a coordinated federal and state response.

Mr. Botticelli deals with drug control policy matters in a thoughtful, deliberate, and straightforward manner. The AMA has been particularly impressed with Mr. Botticelli's recognition of the need to expand access to treatment for patients with substance use disorders. Mr. Botticelli has a wealth of leadership experience in drug policy. Prior to ONDCP, he was Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In Massachusetts, he was instrumental in establishing a treatment system for adolescents, early intervention and treatment programs in primary healthcare settings, jail diversion programs, re-entry services for those leaving state and county correctional facilities, and overdose prevention programs. In 2008, Mr. Botticelli was the first recipient of the annual Ramstad/Kennedy National Award for Outstanding Leadership in Promoting Addiction Recovery, and in 2012, he was awarded the Service Award from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

The AMA urges the Senate to move expeditiously to confirm Michael Botticelli. He brings a wealth of expertise and talent to this important position.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD