



August 20, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA), I am writing to express our support for the nomination of Sara Carter to serve as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

ASCIA represents the leadership of the investigative divisions within state law enforcement agencies in all 50 states. These agencies lead complex investigations into violent crime, drug trafficking, organized criminal networks, and cybercrime. Our members also operate the majority of forensic science laboratories in the United States and work closely with federal partners on cases that routinely cross local and state boundaries.

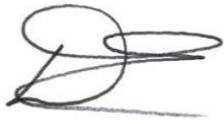
We recently had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Carter and were encouraged by her commitment to a balanced, multipronged approach to drug policy - one that addresses enforcement, prevention, and treatment together. We believe her leadership style and priorities align with the real-world challenges we face in communities across the country.

During our discussion, we stressed several priorities we believe are central to an effective national drug control strategy. We emphasized the importance of keeping the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program within ONDCP, where its neutrality and effectiveness can be preserved and resources directed to the communities most affected by trafficking. We urged the restoration of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to its original purpose of supporting regional drug task forces, and highlighted the continued importance of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP), the COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Program (AHTF), and the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program, which together help state and local agencies manage growing caseloads and strengthen investigative capacity. We also underscored the need to protect critical investigative tools such as the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), and to safeguard access to technologies and data-driven capabilities that allow our agencies to keep pace with evolving threats.

We found Ms. Carter receptive to these priorities and committed to maintaining a close partnership with state and local law enforcement. Her background as an investigative journalist - reporting from war zones abroad and exposing cartel operations along the U.S.-Mexico border - gives her a deep understanding of the drug threat at both the international and national levels.

For these reasons, ASCIA is proud to support Sara Carter's nomination to serve as Director of the ONDCP. We are confident she will provide strong, principled leadership and work to ensure federal policy is responsive to the needs of state and local law enforcement, while also addressing the root causes of addiction and trafficking. We respectfully urge the Committee to advance her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Drew Evans', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Drew Evans
President, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies