

**Senator Grassley's Written Questions for A. Thomas McLellan to be Director of the
Office of National Drug Control policy
June 24, 2009**

(1) The Anti-Drug Abuse Act directs that the Deputy Director "shall assist the Director in carrying out the responsibilities of the Director under this title." It clarifies that the Deputy Director "shall carry out the duties and powers prescribed by the Director" and serve as the Director in his absence. These responsibilities include, among other things, assisting the Director in establishing policies, goals, objectives, and priorities of the National Drug Control Program, administering the National Drug Control Program, and preparing the National Drug Control Budget. How will you fulfill the responsibilities of the Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)?

Response – If confirmed I will be honored to assist the Director in establishing policies, goals, objectives, and priorities of the National Drug Control Program. Further, I will be pleased to assist Director Kerlikowske in administering the National Drug Control Program, and preparing the National Drug Control Budget in such manner as he directs.

(2) What qualifications do you have to be Deputy Director of ONDCP?

Response – I am a career researcher with 35 years of experience conducting evaluations of new and existing substance abuse treatments and treatment systems. I have specialized in helping turn research evidence into practical applications. As such, I can bring the ability to analyze and use scientific evidence in the development and evaluation of effective policies and programs.

(3) What measures will you utilize to upset the supply of illegal narcotics?

Response – If confirmed I will assist Director Kerlikowske in the implementation and refinement of the complement of supply reduction measures currently underway, including in the Andes, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and along the Southwest Border, as well as in Central Asia. I will also assist in the enhancement of prevention and treatment initiatives to reduce the demand for illegal narcotics as an additional method of reducing the market for illicit drugs.

(4) What will be your plan to reduce demand for illegal drugs, if confirmed?

Response – If confirmed I will continue to augment the existing complement of prevention and treatment initiatives currently in place. Working with ONDCP staff and the interagency groups, I will ensure there is a process in place to review and make public the effects of these initiatives. Evaluation results will be used to change

and improve these initiatives. I will also assist in the integration of law enforcement and other efforts such as the HIDTA and PDMP programs to reduce the supply of drugs available for abuse, which should serve to reduce demand.

(5) What efforts will you use to prevent teenagers, young adults, and adults from trying illegal drugs?

Response – As a researcher I believe in the value of scientific evidence in creating policies and practices. As a result of a growing body of research findings from NIDA and NIAAA there are now many effective evidence-based prevention practices and programs in existence. If confirmed I will work with the ONDCP staff and with our federal partners to assure that these proven practices become available to federal, state and community providers.

(6) Some of ONDCP's partner agencies have complained of strained or nonexistent relationships with ONDCP. The partner agencies are vital to implementing a unified National Drug Control Policy. How will you rebuild the damaged relationships between ONDCP and National Drug Control Program agencies? How will you ensure these relationships are repaired at the staff level?

Response – I, Director Kerlikowske and ONDCP value the collaboration and joint efforts of our federal partners. To enhance working partnerships ONDCP has recently (April 2009) convened a revitalized Interagency Working Group on Demand Reduction involving high level personnel from all our partner agencies. ONDCP is also an active participant in the NSC process. These meetings are designed to integrate and support joint policies in supply and demand reduction. They have already produced improved working relationships and show every indication of sustaining collaboration. If confirmed I will continue to support these interagency efforts.

(7) President Obama and Director Kerlikowske have made support of needle exchange programs a high priority. The concept of needle exchange programs are to provide clean syringes to intravenous drug users in an effort to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C through shared needles. These programs are not intended to prevent or discourage drug use and they rely on drug users to be responsible enough not to share their used needles while properly disposing them. However, evidence suggests giving drug users needles does not lessen the risk of HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis and may in fact worsen a drug epidemic while endangering the community at large.

- Do you believe needle exchange programs are an effective way to reduce drug use in this country?
- Do you believe taxpayer dollars should be used to support needle exchange programs?

- Will you speak out against any effort to use tax dollars to implement needle exchange programs?
- Do you believe public money would be better spent on efforts to discourage injection drug use?

Response – I and ONDCP will of course support all federal laws regarding needle exchange. I, Director Kerlikowske and this Administration support comprehensive, evidence-based policies and programs which lead drug users to eliminate their drug use. With this as the general goal, I think the needle exchange policy and all policies should be informed to the greatest extent possible by the available factual evidence. If confirmed I will of course review all existing evidence as part of policy considerations on this and all other issues.

(8) The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign (campaign) remains the most visible facet of our nation's drug abuse prevention efforts. However, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, released in 2006 concluded that the campaign was ineffective in reducing youth drug use trends. The GAO further stated that the government should limit or eliminate funding for the campaign until ONDCP provides credible evidence that the campaign is having a positive impact in reducing youth drug use.

- Do you believe the media campaign is effective in preventing youth drug use? Why or why not?
- Do you believe that Congress should withhold funds from ONDCP until there is credible evidence that the campaign is having a positive impact? Why or why not?
- Will you commit to reducing duplicative or wasteful spending when it is identified?
- If confirmed, will you conduct a comprehensive review of ONDCP funding to ensure taxpayer dollars are not lost to fraud, waste, or abuse? Why or why not?

Response – There is great potential value from a properly designed and delivered, national media campaign as part of a larger strategy to prevent initiation of drug abuse among our nation's youth. There have been significant changes to the National Media Campaign since the 2004 data considered in GAO's report were gathered and if confirmed I will commit to a comprehensive review of those changes to assess improved effectiveness and to ensure efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

(9) The DEA and local law enforcement have encountered candy flavored meth on the streets in at least 12 states. Meth cooks are flavoring this highly addictive and destructive drug in order to make it more appealing to children under the age of 18. Current law enhances penalties for drug dealers who sell drugs to children, but there is no law in place that would enhance the penalties for those who flavor or disguise drugs to make them more attractive to children. Sen. Feinstein and I have introduced legislation that would

double (and in some cases triple) the criminal penalties for those who would manufacture, flavor, or disguise any drug in such a way as to make it appealing to children. We believe this legislation will greatly help law enforcement crack down on this disturbing trend of drug dealers trying to get children hooked on meth.

- Do you support doubling the federal criminal penalties for those who manufacture, flavor, or disguise drugs in order to make them more appealing to children under the age of 18? Why or why not?

Response – Methamphetamine ranks as one of the most insidious and devastating drug epidemics of the past 50 years. Efforts to make this dangerous drug more appealing to children are particularly sickening. I, Director Kerlikowske and this Administration support policies that promote prevention of drug initiation and that lead current drug users to eliminate their use. With this as the general goal, I think that proposed changes in criminal penalties should be informed to the greatest extent possible by the available factual evidence. If confirmed I will commit to assembling, reviewing and sharing with your office all relevant evidence on this proposed change to criminal penalties, in a joint effort to develop the most effective regulations and policies.

(10) The presence of performance-enhancing drugs in professional sports and entertainment continues to have a detrimental impact on America's youth and the integrity of sports. The ongoing revelations of "super-star" athletes turning to these destructive substances to cheat their way to the top raises concerns about the impact these stories and athletes have upon impressionable youth. For instance, the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 2.2% of high school seniors have admitted to using steroids at least once in the last year. Furthermore, the 2008 Monitoring the Future Survey has also revealed an increase among high school seniors who have admitted using steroids in the past year.

- Since you have served as a drug policy advisor for the National Football League what, if confirmed, will you do at ONDCP to discourage young athletes from turning to performance-enhancing drugs?

Response – The use of performance enhancing steroids has been a pervasive and disturbing problem for both professional and amateur sports. Professional football has an active program of regular testing with sanctions combined with treatment and prevention activities. Research shows that these multi-faceted, coordinated efforts are the type of approach that have the best effects in reducing steroid and other performance enhancing drug use. In addition, effective testing programs must be able to respond to meet the always changing pharmaceutical enhancements that become available. I, Director Kerlikowske and this Administration support policies that promote prevention of steroids and other performance enhancing substances and that lead current users to eliminate their

use. As a career researcher I commit to bringing the most current, relevant evidence to the discussion of the most effective policies to reduce steroid abuse.

(11) Some groups have argued that legalizing marijuana would help reduce drug use because it would be controlled.

- Do you support the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?
- Will you publicly oppose the legalization of marijuana?
- Do you support efforts by federal or state officials to decriminalize marijuana offenses? Why or why not?
- If confirmed, will you use your position as Deputy Director of ONDCP to encourage both federal and state law enforcement agencies to pursue marijuana crimes?
- Do you believe that federal anti-drug laws should be enforced regardless of corresponding state laws that conflict with federal law? Why or why not?

Response – It is important to reiterate that I, Director Kerlikowske and this Administration support policies that prevent initiation of drug use (all illegal drug use as well as non-prescribed use of legal medications); and that lead current drug users to eliminate their drug use. Marijuana is a Schedule 1 drug and neither I, Director Kerlikowske nor this Administration favor efforts to legalize marijuana. Though marijuana is widely used despite its current illegal status, all available research suggests that legalization would dramatically increase use and associated harms. There is no research evidence indicating greater availability or legalization would increase control of the drug or reduce its negative public health and safety consequences. Consistent with these values and this evidence base, it seems most prudent to examine the full range of educational, media, research, legal and behavioral options available to use in crafting policies that will reduce marijuana initiation and reduce existing use in the most cost-effective manner. If confirmed I will bring my research experience to address this significant issue and to help craft sensible, cost-effective policies consistent with the values expressed.

(12) In your testimony, you stated: “The position of ONDCP, the position of this Administration, is that marijuana is a Schedule II substance and should remain illegal.” In fact, marijuana is a Schedule I substance, which means there is no recognized medical purpose for its use. Was it your intention to state that marijuana is a Schedule I substance? If not, was your testimony meant to signal your belief that marijuana should be a Schedule II substance?

Response – I very much regret the misstatement during my testimony. I am very well aware that Marijuana is a Schedule 1 substance and as noted in prior responses, I do not favor changing that status.

(13) You have been a critic of the incarceration of addicted offenders. In an interview on PBS's program "Close to Home," you said that incarceration "postpones return to substance abuse and in some cases actually increases crime." However, in many cases, incarceration or the threat of incarceration acts as a catalyst for an addicted person to seek treatment. Additionally, violent offenders must be punished, and a criminal should not be allowed to hide behind one crime (illegal drug use) as a shield against punishment for another crime (e.g. assault).

- Do you believe that incarceration is warranted for those who violate the Controlled Substances Act? If not, why not?
- Do you believe that possession of a controlled substance alone should be punished with incarceration? If not, why not?
- Do you recognize the importance of incarceration as punishment and deterrence for criminal behavior?
- Do you plan to alter or install treatment programs in prisons and jails?
- Do you believe the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program should be expanded? Why or why not?

Response – I am afraid that my comments were taken out of context. I am NOT a critic of incarceration for criminals who have been properly tried and sentenced for drug crimes. However, I have said repeatedly that just incarcerating or punishing drug related criminals without additional efforts to reduce the likelihood of return to drug use following incarceration – are an extreme waste of money, because these sentences by themselves, simply lead to re-addiction, re-arrest and re-incarceration. This is also the opinion of many police officers, prosecutors, public defenders and judges. This broad sentiment has formed the foundation for combined law enforcement and treatment efforts such as Drug Courts, the Second Chance Act, Re-Entry Programs and many other state and local efforts designed to bring a more comprehensive, integrated and efficient response to drug related crime than simple incarceration. ONDCP has actively supported Drug Courts and several other projects of this type. If confirmed I will bring my own knowledge of the substantial body of research in this area to the development of policies that maximize the contribution of all aspects of law enforcement (including incarceration) as well as the contribution of modern prevention and treatment efforts to reduce drug abuse.

(14) In the 1986 book "The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Drugs: Escape from Anxiety and Stress," you advised teenage readers that infrequent use of drugs or alcohol can reduce stress, anxiety, and boredom, and you failed to sufficiently caution teenage readers of the great danger of taking medications or alcohol without a doctor's advice. As prescription drug abuse is rising at an alarming rate, it is important that ONDCP uses its position to adequately warn of the dangers of medicine abuse. Do you think the tone of your book was appropriate for a teenage audience? If confirmed, will you act as Deputy Director of ONDCP to unequivocally warn the public of the dangers of the abuse of prescription drugs and alcohol?

Response – I think my comments have been taken out of context. In my over 400 articles during my career there is a constant theme repeating the dangers of drug use and strong, evidence-based admonitions against initiating use. If confirmed, I will unequivocally warn the public of the dangers of illicit drug use and abuse of prescription drugs.

(15) Because of your background in drug abuse treatment, will you focus on treatment at the expense of prevention? Why or why not? Will you use a multi-faceted approach to combating the nation's drug abuse problems? Why or why not?

Response – I can assure you that I will not focus on treatment at the expense of prevention or law enforcement. I am committed to a coordinated, integrated multi-faceted approach to combating substance abuse.

(16) What role do you think prevention should play while lawmakers are attempting to reform health care?

Response – Based on existing research literature, I believe that prevention is the most cost-effective aspect of a total healthcare reform policy. One of the reasons prevention is particularly important is that addiction to nicotine, alcohol and other drugs is largely a time-limited illness with the ages of risk being approximately 12-20. If we are able to prevent substance use disorders through these years, most adults will not suffer addiction or the ravages of its effects on their lives and livelihoods, families, friends, communities, and our nation as a whole.

(17) Twenty-five years ago, you helped create the Addiction Severity Index as a tool to measure substance abuse, health, and social problems of addicts. In the years since, you have continued to make changes to improve it. Screening and Brief Intervention has been shown to be effective as a method for prevention. If confirmed, will you use your position as Deputy Director of ONDCP to encourage the use of Screening and Brief Intervention as a prevention tool?

Response – ONDCP is already committed to extending the cost-effective benefits of screening and brief interventions as part of the overall efforts at healthcare reform. I completely agree with this commitment and look forward to assisting in the effort if confirmed.

(18) Do you support medications to assist addicts in their detoxification and as maintenance programs? Do you support drug abuse treatment programs that do not rely on medications in the treatment process? What role should the ONDCP play in determining what approach is appropriate for drug abuse treatment programs?

Response – My research has shown that the more serious forms of substance use disorders – abuse and dependence – are best considered, treated, evaluated and insured as chronic illnesses. As is the case with other chronic illnesses, research and medical experience should be the basis for treatment content and duration. As is the case for other chronic illnesses, the nature and duration of treatment is between physician and patient, toward a goal of self-management of symptoms. Thanks to NIH research there are now potent, FDA-approved medications for the treatment of several forms of addiction. As is the case for other chronic illnesses, patients in treatment for addiction should be able to access these approved medications.

(19) I have long supported the Drug Free Communities program (DFC) because it relies on what works best, local communities joining together to prevent drug use in their areas.

- If confirmed, will you support this program?
- Will you use this successful model, which relies on active and effective community coalitions to produce local results, rather than a model that imposes a national agenda on state and local communities, in other programs?

Response – I have reviewed the research evidence evaluating the Drug Free Communities model and am impressed with the results. ONDCP has made a significant commitment to this program and I look forward to adding my own support to enhancing ONDCP's work and that of its federal partners.

(20) The DFC's application process was designed to be clear and easy for new coalitions to understand and use. Additionally, the drafters intended that the DFC Act provide grantees with a fair, transparent, and timely application and appeals process. Unfortunately, some of my constituents have told me that the application process has become more and more complicated, and some were not treated fairly or provided with an appeals process when they were defunded.

- Will you ensure the application process is easy to use?
- Will you make a fair, transparent, and timely appeals process for grantees and potential grantees?
- Do you pledge to work with my office to address any other concerns that may arise in the DFC grant program?

Response – I repeat my commitment to the Drug Free Communities Program. If confirmed I will use my best efforts to assure that the application and appeals process is easy, transparent, and most of all, fair to all applicants. I look forward to being able to work with your office to get the benefit of your ideas in continuing to improve this process.

(21) According to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, each day 2,500 teenagers use prescription medications to get high for the first time. Many times, the source for these medications is the family medicine cabinet. It is vital that we educate the public on how dangerous these prescription drugs can be if used without a doctor's advice, and the best ways to safeguard the family medicine cabinet. What will you do to educate the public and reduce prescription drug use if you are confirmed as Deputy Director of ONDCP?

Response – The issue of misuse and abuse of prescription medications is already a serious and growing public health problem. I know that ONDCP has already initiated preventive efforts through the National Media Campaign, the Drug Free Communities Program and its support and promotion of prescription drug monitoring programs. ONDCP's prevention efforts are also amplified by ONDCP's ongoing efforts to improve treatment for those who have become dependent upon prescription drugs. If confirmed I will bring my research experience to expand, coordinate and intensify all of ONDCP's efforts.

(22) The abuse of controlled substances is currently the fastest growing drug abuse trend in the country. According to the most recent National Survey on drug Use and Health nearly 7 million people have admitted to using controlled substances without a doctor's prescription. More than half of medicine abusers report that they get their drugs from the family medicine cabinet. Current law prohibits most people from transferring their old prescription narcotics to another person or entity for any reason, including for disposal. Senators Klobuchar, Feinstein, and I have recently introduced legislation to make it easier for people with old and unused prescription narcotics to safely transfer these drugs to another sanctioned person or entity so they do not linger in the medicine cabinet.

- If confirmed, would you support legislation, programs, or initiatives, such as drug takeback programs, that work to reduce the risks of controlled substance abuse?
- What actions would you recommend to combat this growing trend?

Response – I am aware of your efforts to improve the disposal of unused prescription medications and I applaud them. If confirmed I will work with your office, my ONDCP colleagues, and officials within DEA, FDA and EPA to design an effective, legal procedure that will be easy and efficient for those who wish to use it and that is not harmful to the environment.

(23) Congress has provided over \$700 million for the Merida Initiative, which provides funding for equipment, training, and technical assistance to Mexico to help address cross-border drug trafficking and organized crime. In addition, the Administration recently released the Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy to help coordinate the U.S. assets and resources.

- What role would you, as Deputy Director of ONDCP, play in implementing our counternarcotics programs at the Southwest Border?

Response – If confirmed I would support Director Kerlikowske by working closely with agencies charged with implementing Southwest border programs for the purpose of coordinating actions, reviewing results, and assuring focused application of resources to advance national counterdrug policy. I would not implement programs per se, nor do I believe it is the role of ONDCP to do so.

- What are your goals for the Merida Initiative, and how will you work with the other agencies to improve coordination of our limited resources?

Response – Because I am not yet confirmed I have not yet reviewed confidential information relevant to the Merida initiative and therefore have not formed a view about realistic and achievable goals. I can say that the data I have reviewed on the impact of Plan Colombia indicate that as a general matter there is a positive correlation between decreased violence and restoration of civil law, anticorruption efforts, and effective law enforcement associated with anti-drug programs. These results in Colombia's case make me optimistic that the Merida Initiative will produce similar results in Mexico. If confirmed I will be honored to work with DOJ, ICE, CBP and the State Department to advance and coordinate the drug control policies associated with the Merida Initiative. If confirmed I will review the Merida Initiative policy and program coordination mechanisms in place to assess their adequacy and to determine if we are operating with maximum efficiency. Depending on the results of that review I may propose some ideas to Director Kerlikowske and work with him and the operational agencies to improve efficiency and impact.

(24) Violence in Mexico has erupted, as President Calderon has cracked down on drug cartels and these cartels are fighting each other for territory. Some of this violence has spilled onto our borders. What do you think the ONDCP should do to keep Americans safe from drug cartel and gang violence?

Response – Safety of the American people can be advanced by a dual track policy of active collaboration with the government of Mexico to attack the international criminal organizations in both countries; and by strengthening our domestic capacity to reduce the flow of weapons and cash into Mexico, and reduce the flow of drugs into the United States. Because I am not yet confirmed, I have not yet reviewed confidential information relevant to the Southwest Border. I can say that the information that I have had access to regarding Mexico indicates that President Calderon has made a sincere and courageous commitment to controlling illegal trafficking in drugs and weapons that has led to so many deaths. If confirmed I will be honored to work with DOJ, DHS, the State Department and other participating agencies to advance and coordinate drug control policies involving the Southwest Border Counter-narcotics Strategy and the Merida Initiative with Mexico.

(25) Demand for illegal narcotics has risen in Mexico. This illustrates the principle that when combating drug use, you cannot ignore prevention. In the fight to reduce drug abuse, the Obama Administration is placing greater emphasis on treatment. While I understand the desire to reducing domestic drug consumption, I don't believe that this should be done at the expense of our efforts to reduce production and trafficking. Instead, I believe that we must maintain a strong supply reduction program that includes counternarcotics assistance to foreign countries as they fight drug production in their countries.

- What do you see as your role in formulating and implementing our national supply reduction policies?
- Given your extensive background with prevention and treatment programs, please explain how you would balance the supply reduction policies with the demand reduction policies that are part of this position.

Response – Role: I will be a counselor and facilitator for Director Kerlikowske on both supply reduction and demand reduction issues. I expect that I will frequently represent the Director and the Office of National Drug Control Policy at interagency policymaking meetings and in conversations with heads of agencies and their Deputies. My role will be to assure that the Director is fully informed on all drug control issues, to develop options and alternatives, to discuss issues in depth with him, and to carry out his decisions to the best of my ability.

Balancing Supply and Demand Reduction: Director Kerlikowske has said ONDCP favors “a balanced program of drug control which utilizes law enforcement, prevention and treatment.” This is also the position of the Administration and it is mine as well. I do not see drug policy as presenting a zero-sum set of alternatives in which a choice to improve supply reduction implies an off-setting reduction in prevention and treatment. We need to do both. I will recommend policies which in my judgment promote the greatest benefit to the greatest number of our citizens. In many cases it will be possible to implement programs that advance supply reduction and prevention and treatment. Thanks to extensive research over the past decade by NIH there are many new, effective, evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions that may be combined in a new spirit of collaboration and coordination with law enforcement, to devise and broadly implement comprehensive, cost-effective, balanced drug abuse reduction policies and strategies.

(26) I have often voiced concerns about measuring the success of our counternarcotics supply reduction program simply by measuring changes in the price and purity of heroin and cocaine available on the streets of the U.S., given that many factors account for changes in drug supplies.

- What performance measures do you consider most important for measuring the success or failure of interdiction and eradication programs in the international arena?
- What new performance measures would you implement and what would be your time frame for implementation?

Response – Single category performance measures of interdiction and crop eradication programs are inherently difficult and potentially misleading. For example, if drug seizures decrease along the Southwest Border it is impossible to determine, based on that alone, whether we are successful because the overall flow has decreased, or if we have failed because traffickers have found a new method to avoid seizures. We need to look at a variety of indicators in context, and make a judgment about significance. Increased U.S. retail price and reduced purity, combined with reduced border seizures, combined with reduced production potential in the field probably means our programs are performing well. I have no current opinion about which measures are the “most important,” but I am inclined to favor basing policy decisions on a process that evaluates several measures simultaneously. If confirmed I would review what measures are available and form a view as to their usefulness and reliability. As a researcher of 35 years, I am confident that my background will be helpful in constructing measures that accurately and appropriately evaluate the effectiveness of that strategy. I am eager to work with Director Kerlikowske, my ONDCP colleagues and your office to develop the clearest set of performance measures possible.

(27) The countries of the Andean Region continue to produce the majority of the cocaine and heroin consumed in the United States. What programs would you support and promote to most effectively achieve our counternarcotics goals in the Andean Region?

Response – The data I have reviewed on Plan Colombia indicate that since 2001 in Colombia there appears to have been an expansion of state presence in association with a reduction in cocaine production potential. It is not clear to me which is cause and which is effect. It seems possible that the two simply complement one another and that neither is effective alone or in the absence of minimal security to assure rule of law and the possibility of social assistance programs. Whatever the case, it is clear that counterdrug results are best achieved when the national government has both the will and capacity to move its people out of the drug business. I would support programs that enhance foreign government willingness to reduce drug flow in a meaningful way and produce measurable, significant, results. If confirmed, I will work with Director Kerlikowske, the State Department, DOJ, DHS and other agencies to advance and properly resource drug control policies to reduce the availability of drugs of abuse in our country and contribute to peace and prosperity in the Andes.

(28) Reports indicate that half of the cocaine produced in Colombia each year is transited through Venezuela. The Chavez Government does very little to halt cocaine movement. What steps do you recommend to resolve the drug trafficking and narcoterrorism problems in Venezuela?

Response –I have not yet reviewed confidential information relevant to the past and present policies governing our interactions with Venezuela as they pertain to drug control efforts. I can say that the information I have seen suggests that drug transit to the US involves more than just Venezuela; certainly many other Central American countries as well as Mexico. Because I do not yet have security clearance to the relevant information, I can only say at this time that I will work with Director Kerlikowske and all our federal partners to implement and continually refine drug control policies in that region.

(29) You acted as an advisor on drug abuse treatment to the government of Greece since 2000. Currently, Greece is experiencing a continued rise in drug abuse and addiction due to its geographic location on the Balkan route between major drug producing and drug consuming countries. Please describe in detail your advisory role with the Greek government. How will your experience advising Greece on its drug control policy inform the strategies you plan to use as Deputy Director of ONDCP?

Response – I advised the Greek government for four years on ways to use research to develop a comprehensive prevention, treatment and law enforcement strategy to reduce problems of drug dependence. I have resigned from that role as part of my acceptance of the offer of my present position. I do believe that experience has given me an appreciation for the different views about the nature of drug abuse problems and the different views about ways to reduce those problems. If confirmed I hope to bring that experience to bear in the current position, within the general approach of seeking a balanced, coordinated and integrated strategy of law enforcement, prevention and treatment.