



National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc.

President
Mark Stringer
Missouri

First Vice President
Theodora Binion
Illinois

*Vice President
for Internal Affairs*
Barbara Cimaglio
Vermont

*Vice President
for Treatment*
David Felt
Utah

*Vice President
for Prevention*
Kimberly Fornero
Illinois

*Immediate
Past President*
Flo Stein
North Carolina

Secretary
JoAnne Hoesel
North Dakota

Treasurer
Kathy Skippen
Idaho

Regional Directors

Joseph Harding, NH
Region I
Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, NY
Region II
Gary Tennis, PA
Region III
Cassandra Price, GA
Region IV
Kevin Moore, IN
Region V
Rochelle Head-Dunham, M.D., LA
Region VI
Kathy Stone, IA
Region VII
JoAnne Hoesel, ND
Region VIII
Cory Nelson, AZ
Region IX
Kathy Skippen, ID
Region X

Executive Director
Robert I. L. Morrison

September 9, 2014

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Comm.
437 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Comm.
135 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to serve as the permanent Director of ONDCP. We are hopeful that the Committee will soon consider this important nomination and recommend action that will lead to a quick confirmation process. We believe Acting Director Botticelli's knowledge, skills, and experience are aligned with the goals set forth in the President's Drug Strategy.

Mr. Botticelli's ability to effectively coordinate cross-agency policy initiatives is extremely important at this critical juncture in history. The recent increase in mortality due to overdose from prescription drug misuse and heroin serves as an important reminder of the need for Mr. Botticelli's leadership. Specifically, there were over 16,600 deaths caused by opioid pain relievers in 2010 and another 3,000 deaths caused by heroin during the same year (CDC). The misuse of prescription drugs was responsible for 475,000 emergency room visits in 2009 – double the number of visits in 2004 (CDC). Overall, the number of Americans dependent on heroin doubled from 2002 to 2012 (SAMHSA). A 2014 report by NASADAD found that 37 States saw increases in admissions to treatment for heroin addiction over the past two years (NASADAD).

Although we face intense challenges, Acting Director Botticelli has already provided important leadership on opioid issues during his tenure. Acting Director Botticelli's success is based in part on his ability to work collaboratively with other sectors representing criminal justice, education, interdiction, prevention, and others. In addition, as a person in long-term recovery, Mr. Botticelli knows first-hand the challenges associated with addiction and the benefits of a comprehensive continuum of care.

Previously, Mr. Botticelli served as Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services in Massachusetts. In this capacity, he provided policy, programmatic, and regulatory guidance for the provision of substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services in the State – including those issues pertaining to heroin and prescription drug abuse. In Massachusetts, Mr. Botticelli successfully focused on results by emphasizing efficient, effective, and coordinated service delivery. Further, Mr. Botticelli promoted the use of data to enhance performance and increase accountability. Finally, Mr. Botticelli has extensive knowledge of federal and State substance abuse financing systems.

Mr. Botticelli has been recognized as a leader at the national level as well. For example, he has served in a variety of leadership roles within NASADAD, including: member of NASADAD's Board of Directors, member of the Executive Committee, member of the

Public Policy Committee, and much more. At the federal level, Mr. Botticelli has served on the Advisory Committee to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), as an Advisor to the National Action Alliance on Suicide Prevention, and others. Finally, Mr. Botticelli has been recognized for his work by winning numerous awards – including NASADAD's Service Award (2011), the National Treatment Network Service Award (2011), the Massachusetts Nurses Association Human Needs Service Award (2011), the Ramstad-Kennedy Award (2008), and many more.

In sum, we strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Michael Botticelli to serve as the permanent Director of ONDCP. We look forward to working with you as the confirmation process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Robert Morrison
Executive Director, NASADAD
202-293-0090
rmorrison@nasadad.org

CC: Senate Judiciary Committee Members
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Christopher Coons
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Ted Cruz
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Jeff Flake
Senator Al Franken
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Michael Lee
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse