



National District Attorneys Association

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October 30, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), representing 2500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States as well as 40,000 assistant district attorneys, I write in support of Michael Botticelli's nomination to be the permanent director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Although supportive of Mr. Botticelli's nomination, our membership continues to express concerns over the Administration's positions and approach when it comes to broader drug policy issues.

In recent years, we have had public disagreement with the Administration on drug enforcement policy, including the decision by the Department of Justice (DOJ) not to sue the states of Colorado and Washington over their statewide initiatives related to marijuana use and possession. The Department's issuance of eight enforcement areas regarding marijuana have also proven difficult to execute as we have seen interdiction of marijuana in surrounding states, increased emergency room visits by youth, and complex issues with the labeling of edible marijuana.

Additionally, as the use of heroin has skyrocketed across the country and the abuse of prescription drugs remains a serious problem, increased emphasis has been placed on treatment of substance abuse disorders and ensuring proper access to drug treatment programs in the community. While treatment is absolutely an integral part of the response to drug addiction, we are pleased that someone has been nominated to lead ONDCP who recognizes that treatment has to be balanced with vigorous enforcement of the law. While with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Mr. Botticelli saw the damage caused by dealers and traffickers pushing large quantities of drugs and helped to develop and foster relationships with the law enforcement and drug treatment communities to create a holistic approach to the problem.

We greatly appreciate Mr. Botticelli and his staffs' outreach and their commitment to working with NDAA to ensure that prosecutors from across the country are heard on important drug policy issues facing our families and communities. He clearly respects the views of state and local prosecutors who are in the fight daily to protect our citizens and promote public safety. We look forward to supporting his nomination through the confirmation process.

Respectfully,

Michael Moore
President
National District Attorneys Association