

September 26, 2014

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the President and CEO of the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, the nation's premiere organization working to reduce teen substance abuse and support families impacted by addiction, I write to support the nomination of Michael Botticelli to be the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Acting Director Botticelli has the necessary knowledge and experience to excel in this position and is widely respected by those in the substance abuse field. In his previous work as the Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services in Massachusetts, Mr. Botticelli was known for being a results-oriented leader who was able to work collaboratively with criminal justice leaders and other key stakeholders to advance his objectives. He has a deep knowledge of federal and state substance abuse financing systems and a thorough understanding of prevention and treatment programs as well as the importance of a comprehensive continuum of care. And as a person in long-term recovery, he projects an important message to families struggling with addiction as proof of hope and recovery.

In his work in Massachusetts, Mr. Botticelli faced the challenges of heroin and prescription drug abuse and helped to develop innovative responses to the crisis in his state. His experience there will serve him well as the entire nation now grapples with the same issues. The challenges of coordinating a myriad of federal agencies to address the opioid crisis are significant but I have full confidence that Mr. Botticelli is more than up to the task, thanks in part to his familiarity with the inherent difficulty of balancing availability of life-saving medication for those who need it with regulation and controls meant to curb abuse.

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids strongly supports the nomination of Michael Botticelli to service as the Director of ONDCP. Please let me know if we can be of help to you regarding this nomination or any other matter.

Respectfully,



Stephen J. Pasierb  
President and CEO