



The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

October 8, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

On behalf of the Collegiate Recovery Community at the University of Vermont, we are writing in full support of the nomination of Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Michael Botticelli to serve as the permanent Director of ONDCP. We believe Acting Director Botticelli's knowledge, skills, and experience are aligned with the goals set forth in the President's Drug Strategy.

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.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Botticelli at the recent 25th anniversary of Recovery Awareness Month in Washington DC. Upon introduction he immediately spoke of the work he's done with Vermont's Department of Health, crediting us with innovative ideas and willingness to make things happen. I felt pride in my State, and respect as he rattled off familiar names and work happening in VT. He was humble in his role, while simultaneously glowing with excitement for the work he gets to do which is so clearly a joy and a passion for him.

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.

In sum, the Collegiate Recovery Community at the University of Vermont strongly supports 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

Nora J. Kottick [Signature] J. Beck

Cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee

University of Vermont • Collegiate Recovery Community
590 Main Street 112 Davis Center Burlington, VT 05405
<http://www.uvm.edu/recoverycommunity>
802.656.0236 • recoverycommunity@uvm.edu