

November 10, 2014

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

As the state of North Carolina's former Injury Epidemiologist (retired 2007) and the person who initiated North Carolina's public health's response to its epidemic of fatal overdoses primarily from prescription pain medication in 2002, directed a statewide task force to provide the NC Department of Health and Human Services that generated over fifty recommendations on how to prevent these deaths, facilitated the passage of enabling legislation for the state's prescription drug monitoring program (the Controlled Substances Reporting System) and its Good Samaritan Law (SB20, 2013), a co-founder for the nationally recognized drug overdose prevention program, Project Lazarus, and a mentor and teacher for the N.C. Harm Reduction Coalition, **I am writing to indicate my unqualified support for the nomination of Acting Director Michael Botticelli to serve as permanent director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.**

I have provided this lengthy description of my background, not to brag, but to demonstrate my deep understanding of the ravages that the misuse and abuse of prescription opioid-based pain medications, as well as the abuse of heroin, are having on not only the residents of North Carolina, but on all residents in our country.

Like his predecessor at ONDCP, Mr. Botticelli is deeply familiar with the challenges of the opioid epidemic. During his tenure at ONDCP, Mr. Botticelli has successfully reached out across sectors and a broad range of stakeholders to advance solutions to the opioid epidemic. Based on my experience in North Carolina and many other states, having Mr. Botticelli at the helm of ONDCP is exactly the kind of leadership that could continue to support those of us at the local and state levels who are working tirelessly to reduce the ravages from prescription and street drugs.

I urge the Committee to act swiftly to advance his nomination as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Sincerely,

Catherine (Kay) Sanford, MSPH

Injury Consultant

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