



Northeastern University

School of Law

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

November 9, 2014

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

I am writing to express my strongest support for the nomination of Acting Director Michael Botticelli to serve as permanent Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

In my role as an academic researcher at the interface of law and public health with special expertise in substance abuse, I have worked closely with agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. I also frequently assist faith-based and other community groups working to address addiction. My work has specifically focused on the opioid overdose crisis for the last decade.

Since the start of his tenure, I have been particularly impressed with Acting Director Botticelli's detailed understanding of opioid overdose and his unrelenting dedication to curbing the epidemic. As a consultant to the US Department of Justice, I have had the honor of observing first-hand Mr. Botticelli's ability to catalyze federal action, especially in building synergy between different agencies. His detailed understanding of the science and policy elements of the problem, combined with hands-on approach have also led to swift success in marshaling federal assets to build state and local capacity to fight opioid overdose and other drug problems. In the short time that Mr. Botticelli has been at the helm of ONDCP, he has produced measurable results both by skillfully managing the work of the Office, as well as by informing and inspiring effective action by other governmental and non-governmental entities. By publically acknowledging his experience as a person in recovery, Mr. Botticelli has also shown tremendous courage, giving hope to millions of Americans struggling with addiction.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my strong support for Acting Director Michael Botticelli and urge the Committee to advance his nomination as Director of ONDCP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Beletsky".

Leo Beletsky, JD, MPH
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