



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:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Acting Director Michael Botticelli to serve as permanent Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The organizations, agencies, and individuals represented on this letter work everyday on the frontlines of communities struggling to confront the opioid overdose epidemic. Our organizations are committed to ending the opioid overdose epidemic through comprehensive overdose education and naloxone distribution strategies that engage people at risk, their friends and family members, first responders, health care providers and pharmacists, and drug treatment and recovery programs.

Mr. Botticelli is deeply familiar with the challenges of the opioid epidemic. Drug poisoning deaths have overtaken automobile accidents as the leading cause of injury-related mortality in the United States. Approximately 110 Americans are lost every single day to drug poisoning. It is more important than ever that our nation ensure strong and effective leadership and coordination of federal policies and activities to address the overdose crisis.

Mr. Botticelli has proven himself to be the innovative and effective leader we need. 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. As the Director of the Bureau of Massachusetts Substance Abuse Services, Mr. Botticelli championed innovative interventions in overdose prevention that have served as a model to other states, saving countless lives today. His record in Massachusetts has demonstrated his talents for working across agencies and jurisdictions to efficiently coordinate a comprehensive delivery of addiction services.

We stand in strong support of Acting Director Michael Botticelli and urge the Committee to act swiftly to advance his nomination as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Sincerely,

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition
BOOM! Health
Broken No More
Chicago Recovery Alliance
CHOW Project, HI
Dr. Ingrid Binswanger, MD, MPH, MS
Dr. Phillip Coffin, MD, MA, University of California, San Francisco
Dr. T. Stephen Jones, MD, MPH, US Public Health Service Commissioned Officer and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff member (retired)
Floridians For Recovery

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Givenaloxone.org
GRASP
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.
Harm Reduction Action Center (Denver, CO)
Harm Reduction Coalition
Hep Free Hawaii
Holly Catania, Esq., Health and Law
MIWhoSoEver
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Porter-Starke Services, Inc.
Prevention Point Pittsburgh
Project Inform
Project Lazarus
Southern Harm Reduction and Drug Policy Network
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction
Suncoast Harm Reduction Project
Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative
Traci Craig Green, MSc, PhD, RI
VOCAL New York
Washington Heights CORNER Project

CC: Senate Judiciary Committee Members

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