

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Throughout the effort to stem the growth of the heroin and opioid epidemic in New Hampshire and across the country, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has been a critical ally of the states and communities that are fighting to save lives.

As founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, I learned of the ONDCP's vital role in coordinating federal efforts to address this epidemic. Under former Director Michael Botticelli, we have made critical progress by strengthening the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, expanding prevention and education about Substance Use Disorder, and seeking to reform our criminal justice system to focus on treatment and rehabilitation rather than punishment.

To maintain this important progress, I ask that you act quickly to appoint a successor to Director Botticelli and maintain continuity at ONDCP. I also appeal to you to appoint someone with intimate knowledge of the opioid epidemic in the communities that have been hardest hit.

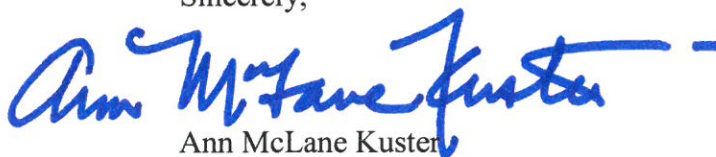
In 2015, my home state of New Hampshire lost over 400 people to overdose from heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioids. First responders, medical professionals, treatment providers, law enforcement, firefighters, advocates, and others across the Granite State are doing courageous work to stop this epidemic but we need continued support from our federal partners.

We need someone leading ONDCP who understands the depth of this crisis and how we must work together to stop it. I stand ready to partner with you and your Administration to combat opioid misuse across the country and look forward to meeting with the new ONDCP director in the very near future.

During your campaign visits to New Hampshire, you repeatedly discussed the seriousness of the opioid epidemic and willingness to work to find a solution. I hope you'll honor that commitment by fully staffing the ONDCP.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress