



December 14, 2020

To Whom it May Concern on the Biden/Harris Transition Team,

I am writing on behalf of the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) to express ABHW's support for former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy to be nominated as Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

ABHW serves as the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits. ABHW member companies provide coverage to approximately 200 million people in both the public and private sectors to treat mental health, substance use disorders (SUDs), and other behaviors that impact health and wellness.

ABHW worked with Representative Kennedy when he was a Congressman, and more recently in his role as Founder of The Kennedy Forum and in his work as Co-Chair of Mental Health for US. We believe Patrick's experience as a legislator, an advocate, and a person with lived experience would be a great asset to ONDCP. He is committed to ensuring individuals with substance use disorders, including opioid use disorders, have access to the care they need. He also is passionate about eliminating the stigma associated with both SUDs and mental health.

Too many lives have been lost as a result of opioid and other substance use disorders. Patrick Kennedy has the experience and dedication that is needed to address the problems before us and we encourage you to consider him for the position of Director of ONDCP.

I can be reached at (202) 449-7660 or greenberg@abhw.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela Greenberg, MPP
President and CEO
ABHW