

December 22, 2020

Dear Biden-Harris Transition Team:

In addition to dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris will be responsible for addressing our nation's decades-long overdose crisis. To make sure that their administration is equipped to address the epidemic that has stolen thousands of American lives and cost billions of dollars, they will need strong leadership in the Office of National Drug Control Policy. As executive director of Advocates for Opioid Recovery, I believe that the Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy is the leader for the job.

As an advisor to Advocates for Opioid Recovery, Rep. Kennedy, along with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and civil rights advocate Van Jones, moved the needle on the adoption of evidence-based, medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder and breaking down barriers to care for those in need, including for justice-involved individuals.

At events around the country, Rep. Kennedy would meet with and hear the stories of individuals in recovery, mothers who lost children to overdose, providers on the frontlines of the epidemic, and advocates fighting for change in their communities. He is intimately familiar with what matters most to impacted families and understands how our current drug policy continues to hurt families of color and those from disadvantaged socioeconomic classes.

Through his time in Congress and as an advocate in the following years, Rep. Kennedy fully understands the need for nuanced, evidence-based drug policy. He has wonderful relationships with directors at the National Institutes of Health and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

Thank you for considering Rep. Kennedy for Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. He would be an asset to the Biden-Harris Administration as they work to end the overdose epidemic.

Sincerely,

Anne Woodbury
Executive Director
Advocates for Opioid Recovery