



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

December 8, 2020

Dear Biden-Harris transition Team:

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend the Hon. Patrick J. Kennedy for the position of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Mr. Kennedy is the ideal candidate for this position and would successfully advance drug addiction prevention and treatment in our nation.

Mr. Kennedy has a long and successful record of serving as a champion and advocate for mental health and addiction services. As a member of Congress, he successfully fought for mental health and addiction treatment parity. After leaving Congress, he continued this work in the private sector through the creation of the Kennedy Forum, as Co-founder of One Mind and most recently as Co-chair of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention COVID Response Steering Committee.

Throughout his distinguished career, Patrick has collaborated with numerous organizations and stakeholders in the mental health and addiction fields and has forged lasting relationships in both the public and private sectors. These relationships will greatly benefit his work at ONDCP.

I personally can attest to this record of successful collaboration as Patrick has worked closely with our organization on many policy priorities that will prevent loss of life from suicide. He has been a leading voice for treatment for addiction disorders that, if untreated, can lead to overdose or suicide. His leadership on suicide prevention policy led to Patrick receiving our Lifesavers Humanitarian Award in 2016.

Both inside and outside of government, Patrick has devoted his life to addressing mental health conditions and substance disorders in our country. His knowledge of policy, his leadership style, his own struggle with addiction, and his immense passion for this work will make him a most effective director of ONDCP.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at rgebbia@afsp.org or 646 331-0125 if you would like additional information.

I can't think of a more respected and qualified candidate, and strongly urge the appointment of Patrick Kennedy as the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy,

Sincerely,

Robert Gebbia
Chief Executive Officer