



December 17, 2020

To the Biden-Harris transition team:

It is the [Anxiety and Depression Association of America's](#) distinct privilege to recommend the Hon. Patrick J. Kennedy for the position of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy December 17, 2020 (ONDCP). We are confident Mr. Kennedy has the experience and dedication it takes to effectively lead our country's drug addiction prevention and treatment policies and would make a valuable addition to the administration. For information on ADAA's Board of Directors please go [here](#).

Mr. Kennedy has committed his life to serving the unique needs of people living with and in recovery from addiction and other mental health concerns, as well as their families, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, and others. While serving in Congress, Kennedy championed a number of critical mental health and addiction reforms, including the landmark Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Since leaving public office, he has continued to advance policy solutions and special programming to ensure mental health and addiction treatment is more accessible for all Americans, regardless of race, sexuality, or socioeconomic status.

As a preeminent voice for mental health and addiction equity for more than 25 years, Kennedy has shown a deep understanding for the value of collective action and facilitating policy reforms through strategic, bipartisan partnerships.

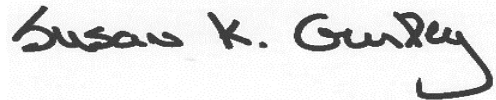
Recently, Kennedy led a national coalition effort to elevate mental health and addiction policies during the 2020 election. The *Mental Health for US* coalition, of which the Anxiety and Depression Association of America is a proud member, comprised 96 of the nation's leading mental health and addiction organizations, making it the largest coalition of its kind to ever unite around a single policy platform during an election. No one else could have been better equipped to lead this coalition. Mr. Kennedy's relationships with the community and rapport with fellow leaders in the space makes him an invaluable asset to those of us lucky enough to work with him, a strength he would undoubtedly carry with him at the ONDCP.

As America continues to face the epidemic of addiction, as well ongoing mental health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, the ONDCP will need a seasoned professional who is ready to lead

on day one. Mr. Kennedy's long and distinguished career proves that he is more than ready to take on this role and lead America's response to these crises.

Thank you for considering Patrick J. Kennedy for the role of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Should you have any questions concerning our recommendation, please don't hesitate to contact me at Sgurley@adaa.org or at 202 446-8148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan K. Gurley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Gurley".

Susan Gurley