

February 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm pleased to submit this letter in support of the Hon. Patrick J. Kennedy for the position of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. As CEO of The Trevor Project, the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ young people, I have had the pleasure of working with Patrick for years towards our mission of ending suicide among LGBTQ youth. I am confident that his leadership will greatly benefit the ONDCP and its goal of improving the lives of those affected by substance use.

Throughout his career, Patrick has been a steadfast advocate for mental health and his work has made a direct impact on countless lives. Most recently, as Co-Chair of the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention National Response to COVID-19, Patrick has had a direct hand in developing an actionable plan with robust strategies to address mental health and suicide prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic—not only to meet the acute mental health needs of the current moment, but also so that we emerge from the pandemic with stronger mental health services, access, and infrastructure long after it.

As a member of The Kennedy Forum, The Trevor Project has been proud to support the Forum's initiatives around youth mental health and their work to make mental health services in schools more accessible. The Forum has also promoted The Trevor Project's lifesaving free and confidential suicide prevention and crisis intervention programs including our 24/7 TrevorLifeline, TrevorChat, and TrevorText, helping us ensure that more LGBTQ young people know that we will always be there for them, that they are not alone, and that they are deserving of love and respect.

Patrick is a highly qualified, longtime mental health advocate who has had considerable impact in the addiction treatment, mental health, and suicide prevention movements. I am grateful to you for considering him as the next Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Sincerely,



Amit Paley
CEO & Executive Director, The Trevor Project