

COALITION FOR WHOLE HEALTH

May 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write as co-chairs of the Coalition for Whole Health to express our very strong support for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and its critical ongoing work to address our nation's greatest public health emergency: the opioid crisis. The Coalition for Whole Health is a coalition of over 100 national, state, and local organizations working to improve insurance coverage for and access to health care for people with mental health and substance use conditions.

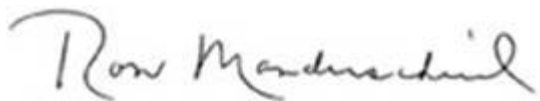
Drug overdoses kill over 144 people every day, and addiction affects one in every three U.S. households. The worst heroin and opioid epidemic in our nation's history has ravaged communities and families in all parts of our country—urban, suburban, and rural—and deepened all Americans' awareness of the consequences of untreated addiction.

As you and your administration have recognized, the opioid crisis requires a comprehensive, integrated response. ONDCP plays an essential role in coordinating substance use programs across the federal agencies, each of which is working to address various aspects contributing to the opioid crisis. In addition, ONDCP's budget oversight authority helps to ensure effective financial coordination of this effort across the federal government.

ONDCP's staff has outstanding expertise on the policies governing substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. This includes a deep understanding of the ways in which substance use disorder services and medications are financed through public and private insurance; statutory and regulatory requirements for implementing the federal mental health and addiction parity law; the intersection between untreated substance use disorders and involvement in the criminal justice system; and ways to improve access to effective substance use disorder care including medication-assisted treatment. As your administration works to improve access to life-saving prevention, treatment and recovery care, a continued strong role for ONDCP is an essential part of the federal government's response to this public health crisis.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments. We look forward to working with you and your administration as you address the opioid crisis. Please contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ron Manderscheid, Co-Chair
The Coalition for Whole Health



Paul Samuels, Co-Chair
The Coalition for Whole Health