

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 19, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write today to express deep concern about reports that funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) will be dramatically cut in your Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal. We want to make every effort to work with you to combat the national opioid epidemic that is devastating our communities, but proposals like these and the continued lack of meaningful action by your Administration make it difficult. Drastically scaling back ONDCP at this critical juncture is misguided, and we call on you to abandon this proposal and instead support increased funding and a comprehensive plan to provide much needed relief to families, treatment providers, first responders and law enforcement officials across the country.

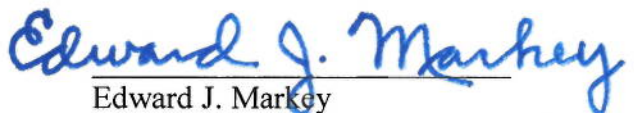
It was startling enough to learn this week that an inexperienced political appointee was named ONDCP's deputy chief of staff, but a reported 95% funding cut and disruptive changes to essential law enforcement and prevention programs like the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program and the Drug Free Communities program is simply irresponsible. We are in the midst of a national opioid crisis – one that your Administration has declared a national public health emergency. That declaration, set to expire next week, has failed to yield meaningful results for our states. The unprecedented scale of this epidemic requires sustainable, consistent federal funding and a comprehensive, interagency action plan.

The ONDCP should be leading this federal response. In the Senate, we will oppose any efforts to defund this office. We hope you will abandon any proposal to diminish the role of ONDCP, and join us in working to put the full power of the federal government behind all efforts to combat the national opioid crisis.

Sincerely,



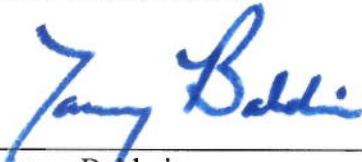
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



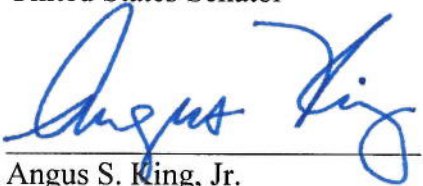
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator