



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D. C. 20503

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

As you are well aware, our Nation faces a continuing threat from the trafficking and use of illicit drugs. According to the most recent data available, in 2015 52,404 Americans died from a drug overdose – a historically high number. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) leads the Nation's efforts to reduce drug use and its consequences, and I am asking for your help.

ONDCP is required by law to develop and submit to Congress a *National Drug Control Strategy (Strategy)* on an annual basis. Early consultation with our partners and stakeholders will allow us to develop a comprehensive and well-coordinated strategy to guide the Federal Government's activities in addressing our Nation's drug issue.

As an important Congressional partner, thank you for the work you do every day to foster healthy individuals and safe communities. We are beginning the development of the Administration's first *Strategy*, and would like your input as we move forward. Please email your comments directly to 2017Strategy@ondcp.eop.gov. We would appreciate receiving your feedback at any time, but please no later than May 5, 2017.

I look forward to working with the Congress to implement the *Strategy* and reduce illicit drug use and its consequences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard J. Baum".

Richard J. Baum
Acting Director