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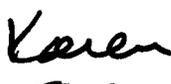
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September 19, 2007

The Honorable John Walters
Director
Office of National Drug Control Strategy
750 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Karen Tandy
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Agency
700 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202



Dear Director ~~Walters~~ and Administrator Tandy:

As you may know, I represent one of the largest and most rural congressional districts in the country, a combination of factors that presents unique challenges in trying to control methamphetamine and other drug use. Over the last several years, I have traveled all across my district to host community meth forums and meet with groups actively working to either prevent or eliminate drug use in the community. I have personally witnessed the devastation that drug abuse causes individuals, families, and communities.

Meth, in particular, is uncompromising in the destruction it wreaks physically, mentally, and emotionally. As a nation, we have made important strides toward eradicating this scourge from our communities. Local law enforcement officials have told me that the ban on pseudoephedrine dealt a serious blow to the mom and pop labs that were too common across the country. Still, it remains clear that much work remains to be done.

From a law enforcement standpoint, the federal government must do more to control the smuggling of illicit drugs across the border. The local authorities that I keep in close touch with regularly praise the Byrne-JAG grant program and the resources they receive from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. In fact, I will be meeting this Saturday, September 22 with the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) Task Force, a HIDTA group, to discuss how they have used their 2007 Byrne-JAG grant funds. I strongly reiterate my support for full funding of both the Byrne-JAG and HIDTA programs.

From a prevention standpoint, I strongly believe that if we reach our young people and educate them about the dangers of meth before they are faced with that first opportunity to use, we can prevent many from making the wrong decision. Communities across my district have benefited directly from the Drug Free Communities Grant Program, which helps train local leaders and families on the early signs of meth use and the impact this terrible drug can have. I strongly reiterate my support of this program, and for education efforts like the National Media

Campaign, which educates children and their parents of the ills associated with all forms of drug abuse.

From a treatment standpoint, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that Drug Courts have in holding former addicts accountable while integrating them back into society. It is critical that we provide treatment programs and options to help those on the path of recovery. These programs should focus on providing resources for rural citizens and areas that lack the same services of larger and more urban areas. Professionals in my district have also relayed to me the importance of available housing and employment for those in recovery.

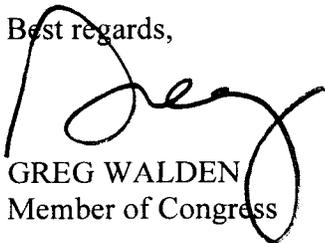
The most vulnerable and innocent victims of meth abuse are the children held hostage in poisonous and harmful homes. We need to do everything we can to provide local agencies with efficient resources to transition these children safe to residential environments.

Undoubtedly, these are all complex and difficult issues. Thankfully, there are scores of groups in my district committed on the local level to combating these destructive forces. I recently met with meth task forces in southern and central Oregon, and I was once again impressed by their commitment and energy to safer and stronger communities. Similar groups exist all around the state, and I have met with them personally many times during my time in office.

A meeting in my district between local, state, and federal officials who are actively striving to eliminate the drug scourge would, in my opinion, be most beneficial. Therefore, I will organize a summit/roundtable in the early spring of next year for anti-meth and anti-drug action groups across my district to come together to discuss what is working, what is not working, and what is on the horizon. I invite both of you to attend to personally witness the tremendous work and innovative models being developed at the grassroots level in eastern, central, and southern Oregon. It would also serve as an opportunity for you to share your valuable expertise with the most passionate of workers on the ground working to keep our communities clean every day. I will advise you of the date as soon as it is scheduled. I thank you in advance for your serious consideration of my invitation.

Director Walters and Administrator Tandy, your dedication to eliminating drug use and abuse is commendable and I appreciate your strong personal interest in making our communities safer and drug free and your consideration of my input. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Also, your respective staffs may contact Justen Rainey at (202) 226-7340 on my staff. Thank you again for your attention to these important matters, and I look forward to working with you.

Best regards,



GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress