

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
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November 24, 2015

Mr. Michael P. Botticelli
Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President
750 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Botticelli:

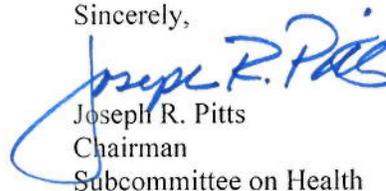
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on October 8, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining Legislative Proposals to Combat Our Nation's Drug Abuse Crisis."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on December 8, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Graham Pittman, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to graham.pittman@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,


Joseph R. Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

cc: The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Representative Joseph R. Pitts

1. Mr. Botticelli, the National Drug Control Strategy has prioritized combatting the opioid and heroin overdose crisis at least since 2010. However, as we all know, heroin use and overdoses are worse than ever, while increasing numbers of babies are being born addicted to opioids; and heroin cartels are running riot in communities. Despite our efforts, things continue to get worse. What needs to be done to properly combat this this national epidemic?
2. ONDCP is working with a lot of agencies to coordinate a national strategy. What are the measurements you are using for success? What do you hope to accomplish in the next year to combat this epidemic?

The Honorable Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.

3. Some stakeholders have raised concerns about the potential implications of the Synthetic Drug Control Act and the side-effects of our nation's war on drugs. Particularly, there is concern that it has often targeted minority communities and resulted in disproportionate rates of incarceration for drug offenses. Additionally, as many have noted, one of the primary reasons why many people choose synthetic drugs over the more traditional is that they do not show up on drug tests if they are on parole or seeking employment.

The intent of H.R. 3537, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015, is for the penalties to fall onto the manufacturer, distributor, importer and seller, and not the end user. As drafted, does H.R. 3537 achieve this goal?

4. Do you believe H.R. 3537 strikes an appropriate balance between treating addiction as a public health crisis versus as a criminal justice issue?