

# FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY

January 11, 2009

Dear President-Elect Obama:

On the heels of your own historic victory, Faces & Voices of Recovery asks you to make history again by appointing a Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) who is both in recovery from addiction and who would bring stellar credentials to the position. We have been dismayed over the tenor of the discussions in the media about Congressman Jim Ramstad's potential as ONDCP Director. We write to provide a quite different view and to testify to Congressman Ramstad's outstanding qualifications for the position.

Faces & Voices of Recovery is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to organizing and mobilizing the millions of Americans in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, our families, friends, and allies to speak with one voice. We are working to change public perceptions of recovery, promote effective public policy in Washington, D.C. and in all 50 states, and demonstrate that recovery is working for millions of Americans. It is our mission to bring the power and proof of recovery to everyone in the nation.

Clearly, the appointment of a person in long-term recovery from addiction to this important position would inspire the millions of Americans and their families who have battled addictions. It would stand as an affirmation that recovery is possible, and that there are no limits to what recovering people can accomplish. His appointment would also offer hope to the over 22 million Americans who have yet to recover and their loved ones. It would also repudiate the discrimination people in recovery experience when seeking employment and housing, and trying to obtain health and other forms of insurance.

Even if Congressman Ramstad were not in recovery, he would be an excellent candidate for the Director of ONDCP. A Member of Congress for 18 years, he is a highly experienced and respected legislator who led the successful battle to require health insurers to cover addiction treatment at parity with other medical conditions. He founded and co-chaired the bi-partisan Addiction Treatment and Recovery Caucus and the Law Enforcement Caucus on Capitol Hill and has been influential in shaping drug policy in countries around the globe. He was a practicing criminal justice attorney for five years and has served on numerous non-profit boards; all of whom have the reduction of the global demand for drugs as part of their mission.

1010 Vermont Ave. NW #708, Washington, DC 20005  
202.737.0690 (t) 202.737.0695 (f)

We stand together, as proud people in recovery, families, friends and allies to endorse Congressman Jim Ramstad for the position of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

We look forward to working with you and your Administration to develop and carry out policies that will make recovery a reality for even more Americans and to tackling the discriminatory policies in jobs, housing, insurance and other areas that are keeping people who are no longer using alcohol and other drugs from getting their lives back on track.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Patricia Taylor  
Executive Director