



Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

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February 20, 2007

Honorable
United States
Washington, DC

RE: **ONDCP proposed Drug Control FY 2008 Budget**

Dear _____,

As usual, I have some strong feelings about the Drug Czar's latest drug control Strategy and proposed Budget.¹ However, I thought I would pick just six things in the proposed Budget I would encourage Congress to adjust (especially now that we are at a crossroads in our response to the meth epidemic). Here they are:

1. **DOE – Safe & Drug Free Schools** (p 25): The Drug Czar proposes to reduce S&DFS from \$351 million in FY07 to \$100 million in FY08. The Drug Czar points out that the S&DFS state grant program has not proven to be effective, and needs restructuring. I agree that it needs restructuring to utilize evidence-based models for K-12 prevention. But that doesn't justify cutting funding. That justifies restructuring.

2. **H&HSD, SAMHSA, CSAP/CSAT** (p 43): The Drug Czar proposes to reduce CSAP and CSAT grants because some have not proven to be effective. As with S&DFS grants, the CSAP/CSAT grant programs may need some restructuring to conform to evidence-based approaches, but they do not need to be reduced. They need to be enhanced.

3. **DOHS, C&BP and ICE** (pp 55 and 61): The Drug Czar proposes to ramp up more border control enforcement. This is a band-aid on a huge bleeding open wound. We are in dire need of comprehensive immigration reform through meaningful enforcement of existing laws and rules that prevent employers from hiring illegal immigrants. Until that is done, our borders will remain porous no matter what size enforcement band-aid (or fence) we install at the border - so long as our borders are porous, comprehensive drug interdiction is impossible (to say nothing of comprehensive terrorist interdiction).

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¹ The National Drug Control Strategy FY 2008 proposed Budget Summary is available at:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/08budget/08budget.pdf>

and the National Drug Control Strategy is available at:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/policy/ndcs07/ndcs07.pdf>

Although I would likely part ways with Lou Dobbs on what exactly needs to be done, I agree wholeheartedly with his conclusion on Feb 14, <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/02/13/Dobbs.Feb14/index.html> that we are in need of a completely new direction in national drug control policy. I believe we are in need of a strategy based on science, not fear – and one based on a comprehensive and balanced approach of prevention, enforcement, and treatment. Thus, I would like to see wholesale changes to the entire Drug Control Strategy and proposed Budget. However, I realize that is not going to happen, so I have instead provided the six limited suggestions to modify that which has been proposed.

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

4. **DOJ, DEA** (p 79): The Drug Czar proposes to cut to DEA prevention and increase DEA investigations. This further erodes an already imbalanced approach.

5. **DOJ, OJP** (p91): The Drug Czar is trying a slightly new tactic. In the past, ONDCP has proposed to simply cut out entire programs that provide critical support for state and local drug control. This year, ONDCP is being a bit more creative. The restructuring of many of the OJP programs under a single umbrella (Byrne PS&P) has apparently convinced ONDCP that they have cover to request substantial reductions in the umbrella program's budget (from \$227 million to \$178 million). Congress has intervened in the past – as before, Congress should intervene again and not allow this to happen.

6. **ONDCP, Other Programs** (p 107): Here's the one that takes the cake. The Drug Czar has proposed to completely eliminate the relatively small amount of federal support for the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (**NAMSDL**) and the National Drug Court Institute (**NDCI**) (\$1 million each). The bizarre thing is that the proposed Budget explains exactly why these two programs are so important to the development and implementation of effective drug control laws and drug courts, respectively (p 108), but then simply indicates they are proposed to be "terminated." Even more bizarre is the proposal to increase the **Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign** from \$100 million to \$130 million. This may be an "award-winning" program as alleged by the Drug Czar, but it has not proven to be effective, and has instead proven to be overly wasteful of precious taxpayer dollars: <http://www.prospect.org/web/page.wv?section=root&name=ViewWeb&articleId=10801>
Truly bizarre.

Thank you for considering my thoughts. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.



Sincerely,

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