

October 18, 2005

ADDICTION AND THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs of the bipartisan *Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus*, we encourage you to accept the invitation you have received to an important briefing from **noon-2:00 pm on Tuesday, October 25 in B-354 Rayburn** on addiction and HIV/AIDS.

Intravenous drug use accounts for more than one-third of AIDS cases in the U.S. It can lead to direct transmission through shared syringes, but it can also affect judgment about sexual risks and thereby increase the likelihood of transmitting or acquiring HIV through unprotected sex.

The Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) will provide important information about the public health risks posed by drug use and the promise and possibility of treatment and recovery in halting the spread of the infection. Speakers will include:

Nora Volkow, MD, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, who will provide an overview of NIDA's HIV/AIDS research portfolio.

Robert Booth, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine, who will discuss results from his NIDA-funded prevention and treatment research.

Patricia Nalls, Founder and Executive Director of The Women's Collective, who will provide her personal perspective as an HIV-positive woman helping other women deal with HIV-related issues.

We encourage you to attend this important briefing, even if you are not a member of the *Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus*. The HIV/AIDS epidemic and its connection to chemical addiction is an issue too important to be ignored.

If you have any questions about this event or are interested in joining the Caucus, please contact Andrew McKechnie (Rep. Ramstad, x5-2871) or Rachael Bornstein (Rep. Kennedy, x5-4911).

Sincerely,

JIM RAMSTAD
Co-Chair
Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus

PATRICK J. KENNEDY
Co-Chair
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