

**Memorandum of Intent
between Italy and the United States of America
in Drug Demand Reduction Research, Services, and Policy Strategies**

ITALY - USA

The Parties

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation toward an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,

Recalling also the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances of 1988.

With a common goal of developing national models geared toward preventing drug use before it begins among our youth, and to that end strengthening cooperation among the different levels of government, and between the government and various community partners;

Bearing in mind that socially based disapproval, as it has been scientifically shown, can lead to a decrease in consumption, especially of marijuana, and in particular among young persons;

Recalling the need to highlight the damages that drugs cause and emphasize the benefits of a drug-free life to young people and to their families, via national anti-drug campaigns in schools, workplaces, faith-based communities, community centers, and places where young people gather;

Affirming that proposals to legalize drugs do not present an effective solution to the problem;

Affirming that drug use leads to serious health and safety problems, and that it takes a grave toll on human life physically, socially, and economically, undermining our communities' present and future;

Convinced that all policies and strategies must be implemented bearing in mind that addiction presents a serious concern, not only to social well-being and to public safety, but on a public health level as well, regarding not only those individuals addicted to drugs, but third parties, too, who may be adversely affected by drug users' risky behavior;

Resolved that drug use must be addressed as a public health concern, and recognizing that drug addiction is a preventable, treatable disease, and one from which recovery is possible, and that best practices in the field are the ones based on scientific evidence;

Identifying their two main goals as reducing drug consumption and reducing the consequences associated with drug use;

Focused on creating increasingly effective models for prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and re-integration into society for drug users;

Convinced that services must be sharply focused on the patient's total recovery, and must always be coupled with the prevention and treatment of related diseases;

Convinced of the need to improve the quality, reach, and variety of care available to decrease the demand for drugs, including those related to prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and re-integration as part of a continuum of social services and medical treatment;

Believing the development of an increasingly efficient system of interoperable data related to drug use trends, service delivery, program outcomes, and peer-reviewed research programs, to be fundamental,

Considering that dialogue and discussion may be of mutual benefit both for social issues, prevention, and especially for research into neuroscience and pharmaceutical and clinical trials,

hereby agree to the following:

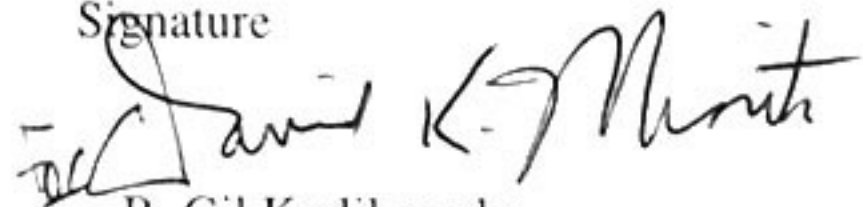
1. The goal of this Memorandum is to provide a foundation for increased collaboration, cooperation, and partnership between the Parties in the fields of addiction research, clinical best practices, and drug policies;
2. To activate international collaborative groups to engage in discussions and to delve into the issues and strategies aimed at improving and strengthening each nation's respective drug control efforts, and to give rise to mutually beneficial partnerships to address the problem of drug addiction with increasing efficiency;
3. To create bilateral agreements by each nation's public health research institutes and clinical centers related to prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and re-integration.. The specific details for such agreements would be posited in future agreements;
4. Research and programs implemented must be compatible the aims specified in the two countries' respective drug policies;
5. This Memorandum of Intent bears no additional financial burden for the budgets of the respective States.

Signature

Sen. Carlo Giovanardi
Undersecretary to the Prime Minister charged
with structuring policies on the family,
community service, and the campaign against
drugs



Signature



R. Gil Kerlikowske
Director, White House Office of
National Drug Control Policy