EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

November 30, 2011

Giovanni Serpelloni, M.D.
Undersecretary for Antidrug Policies
Via Po, 16/A
00198 Rome, Italy

Dear Dr. Serpelloni:

On behalf the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), thank you for your letter regarding the pending changes within your Government and the potential impact on your nation's drug policy. These are difficult economic times for many countries. Nonetheless, we must continue to support policies that keep our communities safe and our people healthy.

We were pleased with our bilateral drug policy engagement in Washington, DC, over the summer and greatly encouraged by the evidence-based interventions that you have developed and implemented so successfully in Italy. Your advocacy for science-based policy in multilateral settings has truly made a difference. Italy has become an influential voice for balanced drug policy, both within Europe and around the world. Your government has fully realized that seemingly easy solutions, such as those that enable continued illicit drug use, only bring more pain and suffering.

Per the Memorandum of Intent between our two nations, the United States looks forward to continuing our partnership with Italy in the months and years ahead. Our sincere hope is that Italy will continue these thoughtful, balanced policies and remain an advocate for evidence-based approaches. We have enjoyed engaging with you and your colleagues, and, on a personal note, I would like to thank you for your tremendous leadership on this issue. We are all better off today because of your strong personal commitment to reducing drug use and its consequences.

Sincerely,

David K. Mineta, MSW
Deputy Director for Demand Reduction

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