

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 2012

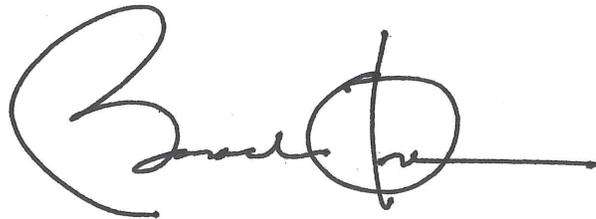
I send greetings to all those celebrating National Drug Court Month.

Decades of scientific study show that drug addiction is not a moral failing on the part of an individual, but a disease of the brain that can be prevented and treated. The criminal justice system plays a vital role not only in protecting communities from drug-related crime, but also in helping guide those suffering from substance use disorders into treatment.

My Administration strongly supports alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders with substance use disorders. Drug courts are essential to our efforts to break the cycle of drug abuse, crime, incarceration, and rearrest. These institutions have been instrumental in opening the doors to criminal justice reform—proving that with supervision, treatment, and rigorous standards of accountability, non-violent offenders can recover from addiction and steer clear of future criminal activity. By diverting participants into treatment, drug courts also reduce the burden and costs of incarceration to society.

This April, my Administration released the 2012 *National Drug Control Strategy*. This Strategy reviews the progress we have made and looks ahead to our continuing efforts to reform, rebalance, and renew our drug control policy to address the public health and safety challenges of today. By working together, we can create a 21st century approach to drug policy—one focused on improving the health, safety, and well-being of citizens and communities across our Nation.

I wish you all the best as you gather to address this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized initial "B" on the left and a circular flourish on the right.

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May 23, 2012

Mr. Christopher Deutsch
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
Suite 201
1029 North Royal Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Deutsch:

I am pleased to enclose a Message from President Barack Obama.

Please be advised that the White House has strict guidelines governing the use of Presidential Messages. The enclosed document may only be used for the specific date and purpose for which it was provided. This letter may be read aloud at this event and used for display.

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Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Olson
Special Assistant to the President and
Director of Presidential Correspondence