



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National District Attorneys Association Addresses First Meeting of the House Bipartisan Prosecutors Working Group

ARLINGTON, Virginia – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) was pleased to join the first House Prosecutors Working Group (PWG) meeting in the 116th Congress, led by Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH), Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN), and Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA). First started in 2014 on a more informal basis, the PWG was relaunched this week to ensure the unique perspective of prosecutors is provided to Congress during the upcoming legislative session.

NDAA President and Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett provided members of the PWG insight into NDAA's legislative priorities. During the discussion, President Blodgett briefed Members of Congress on a range of issues including the opioid epidemic, Violence Against Women Act, John R. Justice program, criminal justice reform, and victims' rights. Representatives Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Kathleen Rice (D-NY) posited that the PWG and NDAA should also work together to change the narrative surrounding prosecutors through emphasizing the vital role they play in securing justice for our communities. President Blodgett highlighted the many prosecutor-led diversion programs and growing community partnerships that work to ensure our Nation's youth stay out of the criminal justice system while also providing an avenue for those suffering from mental health disorders to receive the treatment they need.

The PWG presents a significant opportunity for a diverse, bipartisan group of former prosecutors to address important topics that impact our Nation's criminal justice system. As the PWG continues outreach to their colleagues in Congress, NDAA plans to assist the working group by providing technical assistance on legislation and prioritizing prosecutorial needs for the upcoming legislative session.

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), www.ndaa.org, is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.

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