



POLICE EXECUTIVE
RESEARCH FORUM

Chuck Wexler
Executive Director

May 7, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I'm writing to express strong support for the nomination of Anne Milgram to serve as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

I'm Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a Washington-based research organization that focuses on critical issues in policing and law enforcement.

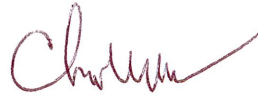
I met Ms. Milgram more than a decade ago, when as New Jersey Attorney General, she distinguished herself and made an impression on me by naming Scott Thomson to lead the Camden, NJ Police Department. Chief Thomson was already on PERF's radar screen as a rising star in policing, and he later served as President of PERF. The Milgram-Thomson partnership was very successful. As Ms. Milgram noted, "Under Scott's watch, Camden went from being one of the most dangerous cities in the United States to becoming a national model for community-based policing." Anne and Scott recently discussed how they worked together to sharply reduce crime in Camden while also building community trust in the police, in spite of high levels of poverty and challenging conditions. (<https://cafe.com/stay-tuned/the-camden-policing-model-with-anne-milgram-scott-thomson/>) So PERF knows that Ms. Milgram has a strong capability for identifying and working with talented people.

Anne also has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the opioid epidemic in the United States. Since 2016 PERF has been documenting the growing role of local police agencies in reducing opioid deaths, in reports such as *Building Successful Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Public Health Agencies to Address Opioid Use*, and *The Unprecedented Opioid Epidemic: As Overdoses Become a Leading Cause of Death, Police, Sheriffs, and Health Agencies Must Step Up Their Response*. Currently, PERF is concerned about dramatic increases in overdose deaths during the COVID pandemic, a trend that PERF has documented in reports such as <https://www.policeforum.org/criticalissuesnov11>.

The role of DEA is central to dealing with the opioid epidemic, and Anne Milgram's background as a prosecutor, as a criminal justice reformer who understands the intersection of criminal justice and social issues, and as a scholar dedicated to bringing data and evidence to law enforcement practices, will be invaluable.

I hope you will give careful consideration to Ms. Milgram's strong record of success, and I urge you to move promptly to confirm her nomination to lead the DEA at this critically important time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Chuck Wexler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chuck Wexler
Executive Director