



Drug Free Community Coalition

A community alliance working toward a healthy, substance-free environment for youth.

Press Release

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Contact: Vicky Solomon
vsncdp@gmail.com

Local Preventionists Meet O'Halleran in DC

Community substance abuse prevention specialists Vicky Solomon and Brian McCabe represented Nexus Coalition for Drug Prevention (NCDP) among others on a recent visit to Rep. Tom O'Halleran (D) Arizona District 1, on Capitol Hill.

The visit was part of the 2017 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America National Leadership Conference, Feb. 2-7, at National Harbor, MD. The Arizona delegation sat with Rep. O'Halleran to discuss the importance of prevention. They highlighted legislative successes passed in 114th congress that were signed into law: Passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and Reauthorization of the STOP Act, \$500 million to combat the opioid epidemic in FY2017. They discussed prevention successes in statistics from the 2016 Monitoring the Future study, results show that alcohol among 8th, 10th and 12th graders are at their lowest rates in the survey's history. Solomon also shared NCDP's local successes with Mpowered peer leadership and support groups at Show Low and Blue Ridge schools.

Funding for prevention is proven to work and is very cost-effective, but still was cut by 34 percent between FY 2009 and FY 2016. "Prevention work is still greatly needed on many substance areas," noted Solomon, Program Coordinator for NCDP. "One is illicit marijuana usage. It is on the rise and needs a tremendous amount of prevention education for our youth. One in every 16 high school senior (6 percent) is a current daily or near-daily marijuana user."

During the current congressional break, O'Halleran said he will be in Arizona, and would call on NCDP.



Back row, left of Tom O'Halleran (center), NCDP's Vicky Solomon and Brian McCabe.

NCDP — Friends of Navajo County Coalition Against Drug Abuse, Inc (EIN 26-8968100)
P.O. Box 1596, Pinetop, AZ 85935
(928) 358-1645 Tel/FAX

vsncdp@gmail.com www.ncdp.rocks

Vision Statement:

Engaging the community to respond to substance abuse issues by implementing strategies that transform community attitudes, perceptions and policies