

Ofc. of Drug Agencies

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JAMES J. BLANCHARD
GOVERNOR

March 14, 1990

Mr. William Bennett
Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Old Executive Office Building, #175
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bill:

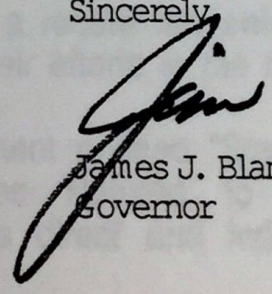
We in Michigan share your commitment to winning the war on drugs. We have developed a tough, comprehensive attack on drugs that we believe can be a model for the nation. Our strategy will work best if there is an effective partnership between Michigan and the federal government. In hopes of strengthening that cooperation, I invite you to meet with me and Michigan's Drug Agencies Director, Don Reisig, when you are in Lansing next week.

I would like to bring you up to date on Michigan's initiatives. (Attached is an overview of those initiatives.) I think you would be especially interested in our multi-jurisdictional drug strike teams that have strengthened law enforcement, as well as our COPS proposal which will provide state funding for additional local police officers working together with community organizations in crack-plagued neighborhoods.

Michigan already has the toughest punishment in the nation for drug dealers—life without parole. In 1988 we toughened our laws with an omnibus drug fighting package. But we know we can do more. We are pushing legislation to provide our police and prosecutors with even better laws to catch drug dealers and even stronger laws to punish them.

I also would like to hear about Washington's new initiatives, what ideas you have for additional Michigan efforts and most importantly, how we can better work together. I have asked Jill Pennington to work with your office to schedule a meeting when you are in town. I look forward to the chance to strengthen our attack against drugs.

Sincerely,



James J. Blanchard
Governor