



California Consortium of
Addiction Programs and
Professionals

PROGRAM INSIDER

Providing a Voice for Addiction Treatment in California Since 1979

Welcome to this week's *Program Insider*!

Marino Withdraws from Consideration for "Drug Czar" Position

President Donald Trump on Oct. 17 tweeted that his nominee to be the country's next "drug czar" has withdrawn from consideration.

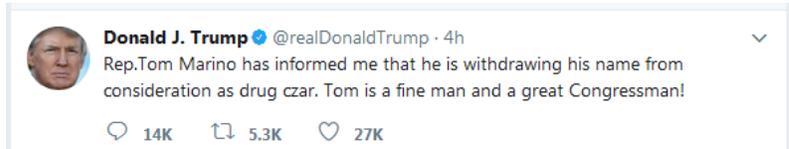
Trump on Sept. 5 nominated U.S. Rep. Tom Marino to direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Marino is a Republican from Pennsylvania.

The [New York Times](#) in an article published on Oct. 17 said Marino pulled his name from consideration after reports surfaced that he "pushed legislation that undermined efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in the United States."



Marino hadn't posted a comment on his House of Representatives website at press time for the *Program Insider*.

The president in his Oct. 17 [tweet](#) about Marino's decision wrote, "Tom is a fine man and a great Congressman!"



This is the second time that Marino has been considered for the drug czar position but backed off. Marino was thought to be Trump's pick for the post throughout the spring, but the Congressman cited a family health situation and pulled himself out of the running before the president formally made a nomination.

"Due to a critical illness in my family, I have, with regret and the utmost respect, informed the White House that I must withdraw my name from consideration," Marino said in a statement issued in May. "I thank the President for the enormous honor of considering me for this lead role in the effort to address one of the most pressing issues facing our nation and my state today: the opioid epidemic."

Marino is an attorney who has served in the House of Representatives since 2011. The longtime Trump supporter served on the president's transition team.

The *Program Insider* wants to know if you serve on your local chamber of commerce board or with a service club like the Rotary or Lions, or just serve your community in general. [Email](#) us!

CCAPP Annual Conference Pictures



Chu to Introduce the Ensuring Quality Sober Living Act

U.S. Rep. Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park) told a Congressional subcommittee that she plans to soon introduce the Ensuring Quality Sober Living Act.

Chu in her statement to the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee on Oct. 11 said her legislation “would authorize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop a set of best practices for residential recovery facilities so patients, families, and states can distinguish quality sober living facilities from sites that are fraudulent or unequipped to offer appropriate assistance to their residents.”

Her testimony came during a hearing on the opioid crisis.

Chu also said that her bill would allow states to work with SAMHSA to help set up criteria to designate *quality* sober living facilities.



“These best practices will follow the guidelines that have been published by the National Association for Recovery Residences, which provide benchmarks for various levels of quality facilities,” Chu said.

The Congresswoman also [tweeted](#) about her testimony, writing, “Instead of helping, some sober living facilities profit off of opioid addiction. Today I testified about my bill to promote best practices.”

Chu and her House colleagues in June passed legislation she introduced that would allow states to be reimbursed for the care of children who stay with their parents while enrolled in a family substance abuse program.

Existing law allows states to only receive a 50-percent match in federal funding, but H.R. 2857 would allow states to receive the full federal match for the child’s living costs if that child stays with a parent for treatment.

Program Insider will track the bill Chu plans to introduce and H.R. 2857 and update you of their progress.

Political Action Committee

CCAPP earlier this year voted to establish a Political Action Committee (PAC) for the addiction treatment field.

Allied mental health professional organizations in California currently maintain PACs with balances of more than \$50,000. PACs are common to most legislative programs, and the time has come for the substance use disorder field to unite and move to the next level of development.

CCAPP is soliciting contributions from \$500 to the legal maximum of \$7,300, with funding going toward supporting candidates whose policy goals are important to you.

All PAC contributions will be deposited into the committee’s bank account, so no funds will be used by CCAPP to support the organization’s operations or business activities. PAC contributions are separate from annual membership dues.

For more information or to make a contribution, contact CCAPP Governmental Affairs Director Sherry Daley at sherry.ccapp@gmail.com or (209) 200-0757.

The weekly Program Insider is for you – OUR MEMBERS! – and we welcome your feedback. Please feel free to also submit story ideas. [Email](#) us!



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