The Honorable Nikki R. Haley   Werner Hellmuth
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This letter is intended to make us all generally fully aware of the devastating reality of drug use.

     We saw many years ago on television the effects of cigarette smoking and the dramatic reduction in usage, even though today's figures are still substantial from the financial viewpoint. It seems to have been remarkably successful in the dramatic reduction of smoking use.

     Something that we seem not to be aware of is how we, through extensive drug abuse, create damage to other family members, our villages, cities and towns, and the emotional cost involved in losing precious family members, leaving abandoned perhaps, losing a husband, wife, or children. It affects our total environment in every conceivable way. The overall cost in this country of only 5% of drug abuse, through heroin alone, exceeds $21 billion. The cumulative effect of total drug use currently exceeds $193 billion. These numbers are grotesque in relation to the devastation caused by their use.

     Not only does it cause misery in our country, but affects many other countries as well. Any momentary pleasure a drug abuser may feel for one afternoon can be in no way worth the tragedies across the globe with those involved in the drug traffic crossing our borders.

     The multiple use of drug programs created by our government appears to have limited effect, beyond extending law enforcement activity. No one at this moment in time has been able to reach the nation at large of consequences to the human body of extensive drug use. Perhaps a nation-wide television commercial displaying in more dramatic fashion how horrific drug use can be. At least perhaps taking a different approach might reach the nation at large by the use of constant, repetitive airing to bring the message closer to home.

Is this a feasible possibility, what is your opinion?

Yours Most Respectfully,

Werner Hellmuth