

Linda B. Cottler  
3519 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32605

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

To the Honorable Ron DeSantis:

I would like to show my unconditional support for Dr. Scott Rivkees to take the helm of public health in the State of Florida as Surgeon General. Dr. Rivkees is an excellent scientist who has spent decades working for the health of our nation's children and families. He knows first hand what it takes to address their concerns, network with other leaders in the field, and advocate for the public health. As an addiction scientist at the University of Florida, I know the importance of working with our Surgeon General and his/her deputies. We have applied for funding to NIDA, SAMHSA and other national agencies and institutes to address this crisis; we can only be as strong as our State policies. With Dr. Rivkees at the helm, we will be much stronger and in a much better position to apply for grants that require State involvement that helps the people of our State.

I am the Director of Community Engagement at our University; I am also the Director of a NIDA Training Grant to train the next generation of scientists. In these roles, I involve the community in research and I also am a proponent of getting junior investigators into research that involves the leadership of the state's public health. Dr. Rivkees would allow for people to be involved in their health and would also value academia's involvement in the public health of the state.

I highly endorse Dr. Rivkees for the State of Florida Surgeon General.

Sincerely,

Linda Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE