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Provided by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals

Attorney General Holder and Senator Klobuchar Praise Drug Courts During Today's Senate Judiciary Hearing

Today, during a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee oversight hearing on the Department of Justice, **Senator Amy Klobuchar (D/MN) and Attorney General Eric Holder discussed the vital role of Drug Courts in saving money and reducing substance abuse and crime.**

Senator Klobuchar: "My fellow Minnesotan former Congressman Jim Ramstad talked about this in the last Congress about how Drug Courts have transformed the way we handle criminal cases. They are incredibly important. We have a groundbreaking court in Hennepin and I was pleased to see that federal courts are beginning to embrace Drug Courts for low level nonviolent offenders. The New York Times had a story last weekend about federal judges instituting Drug Court programs."

Attorney General Holder: "I think that we have to use Drug Courts to a greater extent than we do. We have to use the criminal justice system in an appropriate way....We have seen amazing success rates and a much lower recidivism rate, that I think is the key. It ultimately saves us money over the long haul, reduces the crime rate and is something that I think is worthy of greater support."

Senator Klobuchar then urged Attorney General Holder and the Administration to support continued funding for Drug Courts, adding "we do have bipartisan support for it." Attorney General Holder agreed, "that's one of those areas where we have to understand that whatever we invest up front we are going reap more money and savings down the road...the scientific evidence is clear."

"Thank you Senator Klobuchar and Attorney General Holder for your vision, leadership and commitment to evidence-based criminal justice reform," said NADCP CEO West Huddleston. "The Drug Court field is fortunate to have such outstanding champions."

[Click here](#) to watch the hearing. The exchange between Senator Klobuchar and Attorney General Holder occurs between 2:04.44 and 2:06.42.