

Biden picks ex-West Virginia health official as drug czar

13 July 2021, by Zeke Miller



In this Feb. 10, 2015 file photo, Dr. Rahul Gupta, state health officer of West Virginia, talks in his office in Charleston, W.Va. President Joe Biden is nominating West Virginia's former health commissioner as the nation's top anti-drug official, tapping an official who served on the frontlines of the nation's opioid epidemic. The White House says Dr. Rahul Gupta will be the first physician to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy, also known as the "drug czar." Credit: AP Photo/John Raby

President Joe Biden is nominating West Virginia's former health commissioner as the nation's top anti-drug official, tapping a doctor who served on the front lines of the nation's opioid epidemic.

The White House said Tuesday that Dr. Rahul Gupta will be the first physician to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy, also known as the "drug czar."

The nomination drew bipartisan praise from West Virginia officials. Republican Gov. Jim Justice called it "great news," and Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin said the pick "means someone with firsthand knowledge of the opioid crisis, especially

in West Virginia, will be coordinating the national fight against the drug epidemic that continues to ravage our nation."

"Dr. Gupta will bring over a decade of extensive experience combatting the drug epidemic to ONDCP – the office charged with addressing the drug epidemic that has killed over 90,000 Americans just last year," Manchin said in a statement.

Gupta most recently served as the chief medical and health officer at March of Dimes.

© 2021 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

APA citation: Biden picks ex-West Virginia health official as drug czar (2021, July 13) retrieved 23 October 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-07-biden-ex-west-virginia-health-drug.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.