

Addiction Medicine Legislation
Updates

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THE ASAM ADVOCATE



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

National

GME Advocacy Coalition Supports the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act.

As part of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, ASAM and 68 other organizations, submitted a letter of support for the recently introduced Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (S. 834), which would gradually raise the number of Medicare-supported GME positions by 2,000 per year for seven years, for a total of 14,000 new slots.

[Read More](#)

Stakeholders Applaud Re-Introduction of the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act.

With a recent survey indicating only 1 in 4 surveyed healthcare providers in Massachusetts have ever received training on addiction during medical education, 16 organizations called on Congress to pass the bipartisan MATE Act to ensure DEA-licensed prescribers have a baseline knowledge of how to treat and manage patients with substance use disorder.

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ASAM Supports the Quit Because of COVID-19 Act

On March 17, ASAM and 53 other organizations sent a letter of support for the Quit Because of COVID-19 Act (H.R. 2185), which would extend comprehensive tobacco cessation coverage to all Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.

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State

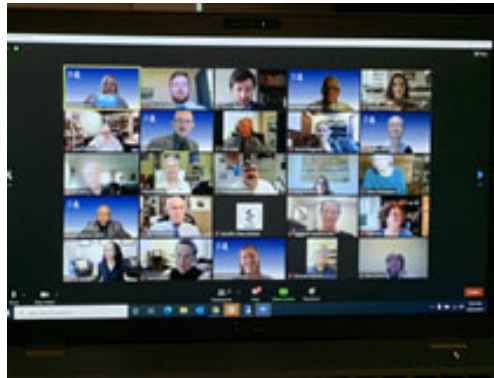
COSAM Supports Funding for Critical Addiction Treatment Programs

On March 23, the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine (COSAM) submitted a letter in support of SB21-137, which would provide or extend funding for addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts in Colorado.

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HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

Amid Historic Overdose Crisis, Addiction Specialists Call on Congress to Take Bold Steps to Advance Addiction Medicine at the Addiction Medicine Advocacy Conference (AMAC).



AMAC was an overwhelming success and included ASAM's first virtual Hill Day, where leading medical organizations representing addiction specialists called on Congress to enact critical funding and legislative measures to prevent and treat addiction, promote recovery, and save lives. Thank you to all who participated. For those who were unable to attend, ASAM looks forward to you being part of this exciting event next year!

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National Institutes of Health Webinar

The NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) Initiative is hosting a virtual meeting on April 14, 2021 (12 pm – 6:00 pm ET) titled *Opioid Use in the Context of Polysubstance Use: Research Opportunities for Prevention, Treatment, and Sustained Recovery*.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



[The COVID-19 Pandemic has Turbo-Charged the Surge in Fentanyl Overdoses Sweeping the Western States, as Drug Experts Warn of a Crisis within a Crisis](#)

ASAM president, Dr. Paul Earley, discusses the dire situation resulting from the convergence of the COVID-19 and the opioid overdose crises.



[Smoking Makes a Comeback in the Pandemic](#)

ASAM president-elect, Dr. Brian Hurley, is quoted on the rising use of tobacco during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

[Biden Administration Unveils Year 1 Drug Policy Priorities](#)

Tom Valentino, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Learning Network

[To Achieve Mental Health Equity, Dismantle Social Injustice](#)

Ruth S. Shim and Sarah Y. Vinson, Scientific American

[With Pandemic Worsening the Mental Illness and Addiction Crisis, Biden Administration to Provide Nearly \\$2.5 Billion to States, Territories for Treatment, Prevention Aid](#)

SAMHSA

[Money from Opioid Lawsuits is Urgently Needed Now](#)

Marvin D. Seppala, STAT News

[How to Lower Your Child's Risk for Addiction](#)

Jessica Lahey, New York Times

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TIME FOR ACTION!



Take Action with ASAM

ASAM has three “live” action alerts which ASAM members and the public can use to contact their members of Congress about ways they can strengthen the nation’s addiction treatment workforce, standardize the delivery of addiction medicine education, and ensure Medicaid coverage for eligible individuals with substance use disorder who are incarcerated. Each action alert comes with a letter ready to send; all you do is select an action, insert your information, and press “send message.”

[TAKE ACTION TODAY](#)



The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter

Kelly M. Corredor: Chief Advocacy Officer

Susan E. Awad: Director, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs

Zachary Semple: Manager, Advocacy and Government Relations

Mitchell Nuland: Specialist, Advocacy and Government Relations

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