

Addiction Medicine Legislation
Updates

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THE ASAM ADVOCATE

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

National



ASAM Members Invited to Register for the 2021 Addiction Medicine Advocacy Conference

ASAM members are invited to join their colleagues from across the country on March 22-23, 2021 for this two-day virtual advocacy event. This year, ASAM welcomes national advocacy partners for this conference - the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine, the American College of Medical Toxicology and the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine.

ASAM members will receive training from expert advocacy professionals on the issues most important to the practice of addiction medicine and participate in carefully planned virtual meetings with Capitol Hill policymakers and their staff.

[Register Here](#)

ASAM Applauds Inclusion of Addiction-Related Provisions in End-of-Year Congressional Spending Deal

On December 22, ASAM commended Congress for new funding and policies that will strengthen the addiction treatment workforce and parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

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ASAM ADDICTION MEDICINE ACTION NETWORK

**Take the ASAM “Grasstops” Survey & Apply for the
Addiction Medicine Action Network Today!**

ASAM is committed to elevating the voices of addiction medicine among key, federal and state policymakers – but we need your help! If you are an ASAM Member who has connections to federal or state lawmakers, then please take five minutes to complete ASAM’s “grasstops” survey so that we may collect information about those potential advocacy relationships. In addition, ASAM members are invited to apply for ASAM’s new “grasstops” advocacy program called the Addiction Medicine Action Network.

[Learn More](#)

**ASAM Submits Comment Letter to the DEA on the
Implementation of the SUPPORT Act of 2018**

On January 4, ASAM sent a comment letter on the Interim Final Rule on the Implementation of the SUPPORT Act of 2018: Dispensing and Administering Controlled Substances for Medication-Assisted Treatment.

[Read More](#)

**Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Modifies CY 2021
Medicare Physician Fee Schedule**

On December 27, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 modified the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). These changes include a 3.75% increase in MPFS payments for CY 2021 and suspension of the 2% payment adjustment (sequestration) through March 31, 2021.

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State

KYSAM Supports Amendments to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Regulations Governing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Kentucky

On December 17, the Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine (KYSAM) sent a letter to the Kentucky Board of Nursing, expressing KYSAM's strong support for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Council's recommended amendments to Kentucky's professional standards for Kentucky APRNs who prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD).

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HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

**2020
ASAM ADVOCACY
YEAR IN REVIEW
JANUARY 2021**

ASAM Releases Its 2020 Advocacy Year in Review

ASAM has released its 2020 ASAM Advocacy Year in Review, which provides an overview of new policies and resources that ASAM and its State Chapters helped advance in 2020, by working closely with federal and state policy makers and other key stakeholders.

[Read More](#)

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



[COVID-19 Eased Drug Treatment Rules—And That Saved Lives](#)

ASAM president, Dr. Paul Earley, discusses the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on addiction in America

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

[With New Majority, Here's What Democrats Can \(and Can't\) Do on Health Care](#)

Sarah Kliff, Margot Sanger-Katz, New York Times

[CMS Issues Guidance about Expanded Medicaid Coverage for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders](#)

CMS Press Release

[Op-Ed: Washington Has to Help with L.A.'s Meth Addiction](#)

Senator Dianne Feinstein, The Los Angeles Times

[Congress's Doctor Shortage](#)

Editorial Board, Wall Street Journal

[Medicare Must Cover Mental Health](#)

Congressman Patrick Kennedy, Benjamin Miller, and Kavita Patel, RealClearPolicy

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



ASAM's Practice Management and Regulatory Affairs Committee Seeking Volunteers

ASAM's Practice Management and Regulatory Affairs Committee (PMRAC) is seeking new volunteer members. PMRAC oversees ASAM's advocacy related to policies by federal regulatory agencies, public payers, private payers, and purchasers of health care goods and services that impact addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery. Members with expertise in digital health, Medicare policy, and billing and coding are especially encouraged to apply. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.



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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