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National



ASAM Issues Public Policy Statement on Advancing Racial Justice in Addiction Medicine

On February 25, ASAM issued a Public Policy Statement on Advancing Racial Justice in Addiction Medicine, the first in a series of statements on addressing the systemic racism that permeates drug policy and impacts both the development of addiction as well as access to treatment for millions of Americans with substance use disorder (SUD).

[Read More](#)

ASAM Applauds Re-Introduction of Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act; Looks Forward to Complementary Legislation that Prioritizes Education and Training

On February 25, ASAM issued a statement supporting the passage of legislation that would fully eliminate the X-waiver, which creates an unnecessary barrier for prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder, with the passage of complementary legislation that would ensure controlled medication prescribers receive baseline education and training on how to treat patients with SUD.

[Read More](#)

ASAM and Other Stakeholder Organizations Recommend New Anti-Kickback Rule Safe Harbor for Contingency Management

On February 16, ASAM and 15 other stakeholder organizations sent a letter to the Principal Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, to recommend the creation of a new safe harbor provision to the Federal Anti-kickback Statute to protect the use of contingency management in the treatment of SUD.

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State

COSAM Submits Comments in Support of Increased Insurance Reporting Requirements

On February 23, the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine submitted comments on the Colorado Division of Insurance's Proposed New Regulation 4-2-7X. The regulation would implement stringent reporting requirements on insurers in Colorado which are intended to improve the DOI's ability to judge the network adequacy of insurers when covering treatment for SUDs.

[Read More](#)

UTSAM Opposes Legislation Establishing New Medical Cannabis Provider Type

On February 12, the Utah Society of Addiction Medicine submitted a letter in opposition to SB170, which would establish a new provider type under Utah's medical cannabis law.

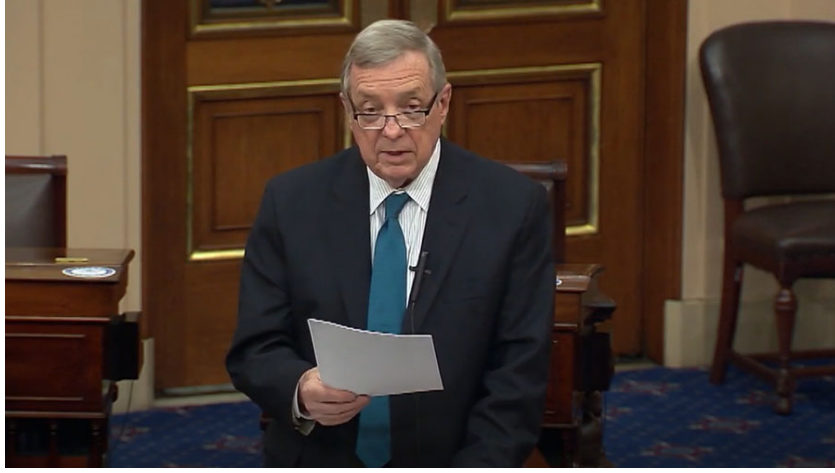
[Read More](#)

NWSAM Supports Expansion of Telehealth Services in North Dakota

On February 11, the Northwest Society of Addiction Medicine sent a letter to state legislators in support of SB2179, which would expand access to telehealth services in North Dakota.

[Read More](#)

HAPPENINGS **ON THE GROUND**



Senator Durbin Delivers Compelling Floor Speech on Mental Health and the Opioid Overdose Epidemic Amid COVID-19

In a recent floor speech, US Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) spoke about how the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the drastic increase in opioid overdose deaths and suicides. He also mentions his recent discussion with the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine.

[Watch the Video](#)

Webinar: Tackling America's Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Through Primary Care Integration

On March 31, join the Bipartisan Policy Center's Behavioral Health Integration Task Force for the release of a new report that offers a roadmap to advance the integration of behavioral health and primary care.

[Register Here](#)

ADVOCACY **MEMBER VOICES**



Drug Overdose Deaths Surge Among Black Americans During Pandemic

ASAM board member, Dr. Stephen Taylor, and ASAM member, Dr. Nzinga Harrison, discuss how the intersection of systemic racism, addiction, and COVID-19 is impacting drug overdose deaths among Black Americans.



[The 'Other' epidemic: Amid Covid-19, Addiction Experts Fear Biden Could Back-Burner the Overdose Crisis](#)

Dr. Shawn Ryan, Chair of ASAM's Legislative Advocacy Committee, spoke with Lev Facher of STAT News about the need for policymakers to understand the seriousness of the nation's addiction and overdose crisis and the magnitude of resources that will be required to address it.



[Baldwin, Shaheen Lead Colleagues in Calling for Increased Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Funding in President Biden's Budget Proposal](#)

ASAM president, Dr. Paul Earley, is quoted on the lack of access to addiction treatment many Americans are still facing.

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

[Pandemic Relief Bill Fulfills Biden's Promise to Expand Obamacare, for Two Years](#)

The New York Times

[NIH and NIDA Work to End Structural Racism in Biomedical Science](#)

Dr. Nora Volkow, National Institute on Drug Abuse

[How to Use Opioid Settlement Money to Save the Most Lives](#)

Michael Botticelli and Joshua Sharfstein, USA Today

[An Agenda for Ending the Addiction Crisis: Key Priorities and Considerations for the Biden Administration](#)

Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy

[The Other Epidemic](#)

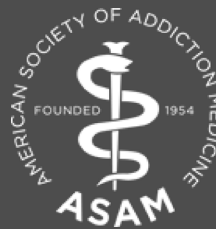
Senator Dick Durbin, Daily Herald

YOU CAN **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



ASAM Public Policy Committee (PPC) Seeks New Member Applications

ASAM's Public Policy Committee is seeking new members to help write and review ASAM [Public Policy Statements](#). The solicitation for new members is open from **February 24, 2021 - March 28, 2021**. Please 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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