

Addiction Medicine Legislation
Updates

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ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

POLICY STATEMENTS

ADVOCACY IN ACTION



THE ASAM ADVOCATE

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

National



ASAM and Other Leading Advocacy Groups to Congress: Eliminate the X-Waiver and Prioritize Education and Training for Treating Addiction

ASAM, along with several treatment professional and addiction-related advocacy groups, joined together to urge Congress to eliminate the X-waiver, which creates an unnecessary barrier to prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder, and to prioritize education for addiction treatment.

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America's Addiction Crisis, Compounded by Covid-19, Requires Immediate Action to Save Lives

In a new op-ed for *STAT News*, ASAM president, Dr. Paul Earley, outlines urgent actions policymakers must take to strengthen the addiction treatment workforce and remove barriers to evidence-based addiction care.

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Tonko-Baldwin Medicaid Reentry Act Added to E&C Reconciliation

The bipartisan Medicaid Reentry Act has been incorporated into the House Committee on Energy & Commerce [budget reconciliation proposal](#) in response to COVID-19. This legislation empowers states to restore access to medical services, including addiction treatment, through Medicaid for incarcerated individuals up to 30 days before their release. ASAM president, Dr. Paul Earley, joins others in applauding these bipartisan leaders.

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ASAM Issues New Policy Statement on Access to Medications for Addiction Treatment for Persons Under Community Correctional Control

On January 20, 2021, ASAM released a new public policy statement containing recommendations regarding access to FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder for individuals under community correctional control (e.g., on probation or parole).

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State

MNSAM Supports State Legislation that Would Remove "Buy and Bill" Requirements

On January 21, the Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine (MNSAM) submitted a letter of support for state legislation that would remove "buy and bill" requirements from all practitioner administered medications for substance use disorder.

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ASAM Joins Coalition in Releasing Principles to Guide State and Local Spending of Forthcoming Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds

ASAM joined a coalition of over 30 professional and advocacy organizations, coordinated by faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in releasing a set of principles to help guide state and local spending of forthcoming opioid litigation settlement funds.

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HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND



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. 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](#)

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



Emphasizing Medical Student and Physician Mental Health in the Curricula

ASAM Legislative Advocacy Committee member, Dr. Ruchi Fitzgerald, talks with the American Medical Association about the importance of treating those with a substance use disorder, depression, anxiety or other stigma-laden condition – including within the medical profession.



[Pandemic Fuels Record Overdose Deaths](#)

ASAM president, Dr. Paul Earley, and ASAM Member, Dr. Michelle Maloney, speak with NPR about the rising overdose deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

[Transforming Mental Health And Addiction Services](#)

Margarita Alegría, Richard G. Frank, Helena B. Hansen, Joshua M. Sharfstein, Ruth S. Shim, and Matt Tierney, Health Affairs

[As Overdose Deaths Surge, White House Takes Steps To Build Drug Policy Team](#)

Brian Mann, NPR

[Wisconsin Expands Medicaid Coverage of Residential Substance Use Disorder](#)

Tom Legener, NBC-26 Green Bay

[Biden Moves to Expand Health Coverage in Pandemic Economy](#)

Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Abby Goodnough, New York Times

[Mental Health Parity: Comparative Assessments Required for Certain Nonquantitative Treatment Limits in Group Health Plans](#)

Michael J. MacLean, The National Law Review

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**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 also invited to apply for ASAM's new "grasstops" advocacy program, the Addiction Medicine Action Network.

[Learn More](#)

ASAM Assists with Creation of New Resources on 42 CFR Part 2

Recently, the Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) released a frequently asked questions document to help address questions raised during the "Understanding the Final Rule for 42 CFR Part 2 and Next Steps" webinar hosted by ASAM, APA, and AAAP. The webinar can be viewed [here](#), the slides are available [here](#) and that FAQ document is available [here](#).



The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter

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

Zachary Semple: Manager, Advocacy and Government Relations

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