



# THE ASAM ADVOCATE

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## ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



### NATIONAL

#### **Key Stakeholders Request \$38.5 Billion from Congress for Emergency Funding to Avert Collapse of Behavioral Health Organizations Nationwide**

ASAM, the National Council for Behavioral Health, and 38 other organizations urged legislators to appropriate \$38.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding for direct payments to behavioral

health organizations to ensure they can remain open and operating during the COVID-19 crisis.

[Read More](#)

### **The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Passes into Law**

On March 27, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a \$2.2 trillion legislative package to combat COVID-19 and its economic fallout. The legislation also makes significant changes to 42 CFR Part 2 which will come into effect one year after the enactment of the CARES Act.

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### **ASAM Applauds DEA's Clarification of Guidance on Buprenorphine Initiation through Telephone Voice Calls**

On March 30, after urging from ASAM and other stakeholders, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) clarified previously issued guidance by stating that opioid treatment programs (OTPs) and DATA-waivered clinicians may temporarily prescribe buprenorphine to new patients after an evaluation through telephone voice calls due to the impact of COVID-19. ASAM applauds DEA's clarification on this issue.

[Read More](#)

### **ASAM Board Approves Updated Policy Statement on E-Cigarettes**

On April 1, ASAM's Board of Directors approved an updated policy statement on e-cigarettes that reflects the scientific advancements and regulatory developments that have occurred since the statement was issued in 2018.

[Read The Statement Here](#)

## **STATE**

### **NJSAM Submits Letter in Support of Bill to Improve Access to MAT in Jails and Prisons**

On March 25, the New Jersey Society of Addiction Medicine submitted a letter in support of A3692, which would require that certain incarcerated individuals have access to medications for addiction treatment and other treatment services.

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## **LSAM Submits Letter in Support of Bill to Require Use of the ASAM Criteria**

On March 18, the Louisiana Society of Addiction Medicine submitted a letter in support of SB213, which would require that medical necessity determinations related to substance use disorder be made in accordance with the ASAM Criteria by certain insurance policies.

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## **HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND**



### **ASAM's Vice President Testifies in Support of Funding for Key Addiction Treatment Workforce Programs**

On March 23, ASAM's vice president Dr. Yngvild Olsen submitted testimony to the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee urging legislators to appropriate funding for key addiction treatment workforce programs in the Fiscal Year 2021 LHHS Appropriations Act.

[Read More](#)



### **ASAM Launches Resources to Help Respond to COVID-19**

On March 18, ASAM convened the Caring for Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic (CPDC) Task Force. The Task Force, which includes a national panel of experts who are recognized in the field of addiction medicine, is rapidly producing comprehensive resources tailored to addiction medicine treatment within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



### **Kentuckians with Substance Use Disorder Can't Afford to Wait for Treatment**

KYSAM's president Dr. Michael Fletcher urges Kentucky legislators to pass HB389, which would prohibit prior authorization for medications for addiction treatment (MAT).

### **The American Medical Association Opioid Task Force: Support for Evidence-Based Care for Substance Use Disorders**

ASAM members Drs. Sharon Levy, Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, John Renner, and Frank Dowling, as well as AMA President Dr. Patrice Harris, share their perspectives on helping patients with substance use disorder.

### **Opioid Addiction 'Is A Disease Of Isolation,' So Pandemic Puts Recovery At Risk**

MASAM's president Dr. Peter Friedmann discusses how those suffering from addiction may be at an elevated risk of complications from COVID-19.

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# ADDICTION POLICY **IN THE NEWS**



## **Coronavirus Pandemic Complicates Opioid Treatment**

Jon Kamp, The Wall Street Journal

## **The Psychiatrist at the Centre of the Opioid Crisis**

Emiliano Rodríguez Mega, Nature

## **Medicare and Medicaid Patients Get Temporary Access to Telemedicine Amid Coronavirus Crisis, But Challenges Remain**

Lauren Lantry, ABC News

## **CMS Approves Approximately \$34 Billion for Providers with the Accelerated/Advance Payment Program for Medicare Providers in One Week**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

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# YOU CAN MAKE **A DIFFERENCE**

COVID-19 is making it increasingly difficult for patients suffering from addiction to access their medications. Here is what you can do to help:

If qualified, **apply** for a DATA 2000 waiver or **increase** your patient limit so that those with OUD can find effective treatment. It is important to note that practitioners with a current waiver to prescribe up to 100 patients and who are not otherwise eligible to treat up to 275 patients may be able to request a temporary increase to treat up to 275 patients in order to address emergency situations as further defined by **federal regulations**.

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