



THE ASAM ADVOCATE

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



NATIONAL

House Democrats Introduce The Heroes Act: A New Legislative Package to Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

On May 12, House Democrats introduced H.R. 6800, the Heroes Act, a \$3 trillion-dollar legislative package to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The legislation includes a number of provisions designed to maintain and increase access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

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The Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2 Requests that HHS Expedite Revising 42 CFR Part 2 Rule Pursuant to the CARES Act

On April 28, the Partnership to Amend 42 CFR Part 2 sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar urging him to quickly issue a rule on the 42 CFR Part 2 provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Safety Act.

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ASAM Issues New Policy Statement on Third-Party Payment for Addiction Treatment

On April 27, ASAM released a new policy statement calling on all health plans to provide robust and equitable coverage of addiction prevention and treatment services.

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STATE

Governors Across the US Quickly Take Action to Address the COVID-19 Health Threat

Over the last two months, governors across the U.S. have been issuing executive orders and directing their administrations to take rapid action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Michigan Pushes to Expand Insurance Coverage for Addiction Treatment

The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services has announced plans to expand the list of essential health benefits covered by ACA plans in Michigan to better cover treatment for addiction.

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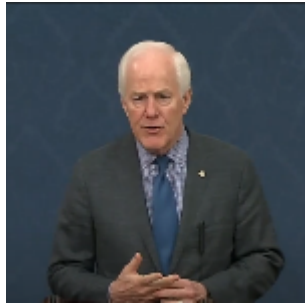
HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

COVID-19 and Addiction Policy

ASAM Vice-President Dr. Yngvild Olsen participated in a round table hosted by Georgetown to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on addiction policy.



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Senator Cornyn: Cannot Ignore the Mental Health Impact of Coronavirus

In an address on the Senate floor, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) stressed the importance of Congress continuing to support the mental health and substance use disorder treatment infrastructure across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Listen Here](#)

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



Virus Forebodes A Mental Health Crisis

ASAM's President Dr. Paul Earley and other experts in the field discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and addiction crisis.

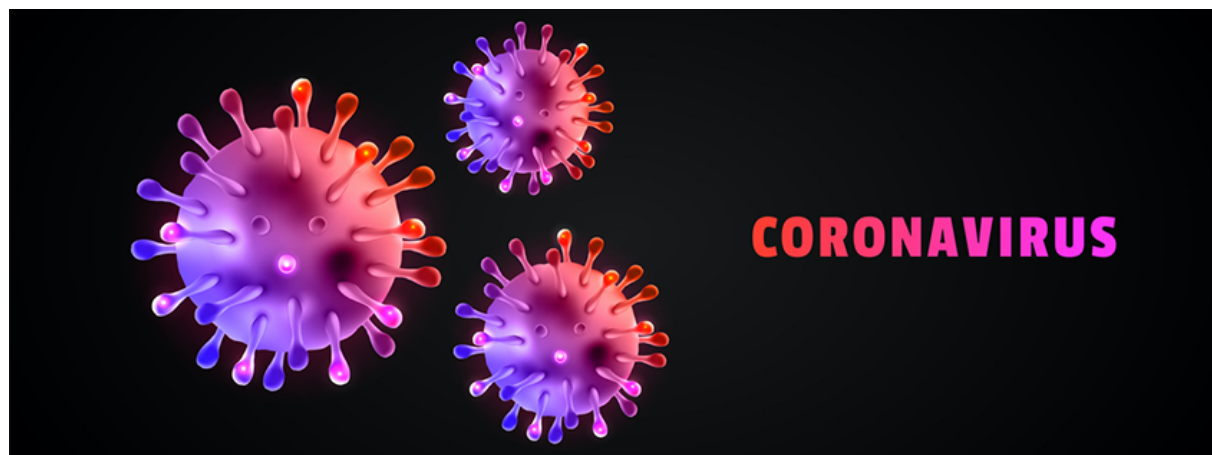
Economic Recovery from Pandemic Requires Investment in Recovery of a Different Kind

Chair of ASAM's Legislative Advocacy Committee, Dr. Shawn Ryan, writes about steps the federal government can take to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on America's addiction and mental health treatment infrastructure.

Advocating For Forgotten Populations During COVID-19

ASAM members Drs. Elizabeth M. Salisbury-Afshar, and Josiah D. Rich, as well as Dr. Eli Y. Adashi, write about the unique challenges of homelessness, incarceration, and opioid use disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS



Coping with the Collision of Public Health Crises: COVID-19 and Substance Use Disorders

Dr. Francis Collins, National Institute of Health Director's Blog

Schrier, Roe Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Increase Telehealth Opportunities During Pandemic

Representative Kim Schrier's Office

Senators Markey, Warren, Shaheen, Feinstein, and Hassan Call on Trump Admin. to Reduce Barriers to Lifesaving Opioid Treatment Medication During Coronavirus Health Emergency

Senator Ed Markey's office

Alcohol Poses Different Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. George Koob, NIAAA

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ASAM Convenes Chapters Council to Respond to COVID-19

ASAM's Chapters Council has begun holding weekly meetings to discuss and address the state of addiction treatment and policy concerns related to COVID-19 across the country. ASAM members experiencing issues are encouraged to email covid@asam.org to share their concerns with ASAM.

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