



ASAM Advocacy News

ASAM Mission

Increase access to and improve the quality of addictions treatment.

Educate physicians, medical and osteopathic students, and the public.

Promote research and prevention.

Establish addiction medicine as a specialty recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

ASAM advocates for parity in:

1. Training, credentialing and privileging
2. Access to treatment
3. Payment for treatment

In the News

Join ASAM's Legislative Advocacy Committee (LAC). ASAM's LAC oversees the activities of ASAM's Government Relations Department. Specifically, the LAC determines the long term advocacy goals of the association and helps develop the strategies, budgets, and grassroots support system required to accomplish these goals. We are currently looking for new members. If you are interested in supporting ASAM's advocacy efforts and want to join the LAC, please email [Alexis Geier Horan](#).

Advocacy Efforts at the State Level

Upcoming Events

American Medical Association (AMA) National Advocacy Conference. Washington, DC, March 10-11, 2009. [[Registration and information](#)]

Cover the Uninsured Week. A project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. March 22-28, 2009. [[Information on how to get involved.](#)]

American Psychiatric Association (APA) Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California, May 16-21, 2009. [[Registration and information](#)]

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) Annual Conference. West Palm Beach, Florida, May 17-20, 2009.

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[\[Registration and information\]](#)

Have events that you'd like to see posted in this newsletter? Please send your suggestions to advocacy@asam.org.

Special Notes

New to Grassroots Advocacy? If you've never lobbied Congress or otherwise advocated for a cause, it can seem like an intimidating endeavor. ASAM's government relations department is here to help you for your first time or your fiftieth. Did you know ASAM hosts an advocacy website [\[ASAM Advocacy Website\]](#)? On it, you'll find:

- information about ASAM **advocacy events**
- updates on current federal and state **legislation of interest**
- an **advocacy toolkit** complete with: an advocacy tutorial, instructions on how to contact Congress and what to say, a glossary of advocacy terms (what does "mark-up mean, what happens when a bill is "hot-lined", etc), and relevant support materials and reports.
- the latest edition of **ASAM's Advocacy e-newsletter**
- **ASAM public policy statements**

What Are Your Addiction Policy Issues?

ASAM's leadership needs your feedback to help determine ASAM's legislative policy priorities. Please send your responses to advocacy@asam.org and indicate what federal (and/or state) healthcare policies are priorities for you.

**In your email, please provide as much detail about the policy and the problems/solutions associated with it, as possible. Thank you!

American Society of Addiction Medicine

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