



## ASAM Advocacy News

July 19, 2007

Issue 1 Page 1

### 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

### Contact ASAM:

Alexis Geier-Horan  
Director,  
Government  
Relations  
American Society of  
Addiction Medicine  
(301) 656-3920 x103  
[ageier@asam.org](mailto:ageier@asam.org)

Donald J. Kurth, MD,  
FASAM  
Chair, Legislative  
Advocacy  
Committee

### In the News

**House Education and Labor Committee Approves Parity Bill** On Wednesday, July 18, the House Education and Labor Committee voted in favor of H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. **Thank you to all the ASAM members who contacted their Congresspersons in anticipation of this hearing!** This is the first of the three House committees assigned jurisdiction over H.R. 1424 to “mark-up” the bill. Once all of the committees have marked up the bill, H.R. 1424 will be sent back to the House floor for final consideration. If both the House and the Senate chambers approve of their respective parity bills, the two versions will be reconciled in a House-Senate conference committee. Please check ASAM’s advocacy webpage for the latest information regarding these bills. [[ASAM Advocacy Webpage](#)]

**ASAM and the Johnson Institute Hire Parity Lobbyist** As of June 1, 2007, Carol McDaid of Capitol Decisions Inc. has been representing both ASAM’s and the Johnson Institute’s pro-parity interests on Capitol Hill. Carol brings 20 years of federal drug policy lobbying experience and an equally impressive support team to our ever-growing addiction policy advocacy efforts.

**Members Reach out to Congress at Home** Members of Congress generally spend their “July 4<sup>th</sup> Recess” working in their home districts. ASAM members (whose Representatives do not currently support the House parity bill) took advantage of their federal legislators’ proximity and lobbied their support for this bill. Congress will recess again in August. All ASAM members are encouraged to meet with their Congresspersons in their district offices and/or invite their Members to visit their treatment facilities or otherwise engage their interest in addiction medicine and related policies. Please contact ASAM’s government relations staff person, [ageier@asam.org](mailto:ageier@asam.org), for assistance.

**NIDA/NIAAA Name Changes??** On June 27, 2007, the Senate Health Education and Labor Committee approved S. 1011, a bill that would change the names of both the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to the National Institute on Diseases of Addiction and the National Institute on Alcohol Disorders and Health, respectively. A companion bill, H.R. 1348, has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

### Advocacy Efforts at the State Level

**North Carolina Senate Considers Parity** On June 29, 2007, the NC Senate Health Committee approved a mental health parity bill, after dropping a provision that would have extended coverage to substance use disorders. The House passed this bill with the addiction coverage in place.



## ASAM Advocacy News

July 19, 2007

Issue 1 Page 2

### 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

### Contact ASAM:

Alexis Geier-Horan  
Director,  
Government  
Relations  
American Society of  
Addiction Medicine  
(301) 656-3920 x103  
[ageier@asam.org](mailto:ageier@asam.org)

Donald J. Kurth,  
MD, FASAM  
Chair, Legislative  
Advocacy  
Committee

### Advocacy Efforts at the State Level, cont'd

**Louisiana Parity Bill Defeated** After being passed out of the state Senate, SB 93 was voted down (10 to 7) by the state House Insurance Committee on June 13, 2007.

### Upcoming Events

**SAMHSA Recovery Month** September, 2007 [[Information](#)]

**NAADAC/TAADAC/NALGAP Journey Together Conference** September 5-8, 2007, Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville, TN [[Information and Registration](#)]

**ASAM State of the Art in Addiction Medicine** October 25-27, 2007, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill [[Information and Registration](#)]

### 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](mailto: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!

### Special Note

Planning to attend ASAM's Annual Medical-Scientific Conference this Spring in Toronto? Apply for new or renewed passports today! Due to recent legislative changes, passport processing times have increased. Please plan accordingly. Visit the US Department of State website for information on how to obtain a US passport. [[US Department of State/Passport](#)]