



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

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ASAM Mourns the Passing of Representative Elijah E. Cummings

Longtime Congressman from Baltimore was a champion for addiction treatment and recovery

ROCKVILLE, Md. – The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) expresses sincere condolences to the family of Representative Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), who passed away this morning at the age of 68. ASAM mourns the loss of the longtime Maryland Congressman who was a tireless advocate for the people he served and a true champion for expanding access to addiction treatment and recovery in the US.

“We are saddened to learn of Representative Cummings’ passing,” said Paul H. Earley, MD, president of ASAM. “As a passionate advocate for Americans affected by addiction, the Congressman sought big and bold solutions to the nation’s addiction and overdose crisis. He understood that addiction is a disease and not a moral failing, and that Americans living with addiction need and deserve treatment and recovery support services. His passing represents a tremendous loss for our country, and he will be truly missed. Our deep condolences go out to his family, friends, and staff members during this difficult time.”

Rep. Cummings has long advocated for increased access to addiction treatment. In May, he introduced the [Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency \(CARE\) Act](#) (H.R. 2569), broad and expansive legislation to address the nation’s addiction and overdose crisis and help people with addiction enter remission and recovery.

About ASAM

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), founded in 1954, is a professional medical society representing over 6,000 physicians, clinicians and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction. For more information, visit www.ASAM.org.

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