

Addiction Medicine: **Cover It.**



- Over half of Americans who are incarcerated meet the criteria for a substance use or mental health disorder, but the current healthcare payment system isn't set up to treat them effectively.
- Current policy offers little support for the coordination of behavioral, social, and psychological services that individuals who are incarcerated often need in addition to medication.
- Reforming payment policies for substance use and mental health treatment among people who are incarcerated will expand access to evidence-based care and save lives.

Across the country, people seeking treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) struggle to access care—especially those in America's prisons and jails. Americans who are involved with the justice system are particularly at risk of withdrawal, overdose, and death. Research suggests that incarcerated individuals are 129 times more likely to die from overdose within the first two weeks after release when compared to the general U.S. population – particularly from opioids.

Drug overdose is a leading cause of death among formerly incarcerated individuals.

Reforming current payment policies for addiction treatment among this high-risk population would expand access to evidence-based care and save lives.

How Members of Congress Can Help:

- ✔ Co-sponsor the **Humane Correctional Health Care Act** (H.R. 4141 / S. 2305), which will allow states to use federal Medicaid matching funds to cover healthcare services provided to inmates of public institutions under Medicaid. By ensuring that mental health and addiction treatment is covered during incarceration, the U.S. can expand access to evidence-based care and significantly reduce the risk of opioid-related overdose.
- ✔ Co-sponsor the **Community Re-entry through Addiction Treatment to Enhance** (CREATE) Opportunities Act (H.R. 3496 / S. 1983), which will create a new grant program within the Department of Justice for state and local governments to cover and provide evidence-based opioid use disorder (OUD) treatments, including medications for addiction treatment, in their correctional facilities and connect individuals to continued OUD treatment upon release into the community.



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine