

Addiction Medicine: **Teach it.**



- Our nation needs a stronger addiction treatment workforce to serve the needs of the millions of Americans living with substance use disorder (SUD).
- Targeted funding is urgently needed to increase the ranks of qualified, well-trained addiction treatment professionals in high-need communities across America.
- Workforce solutions must be structural. More incentives and training opportunities are needed to attract students and professionals to specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction.

There are too few physicians and other clinicians with the requisite knowledge and training to prevent, diagnose, and treat addiction – a chronic disease that, like diabetes or heart disease, warrants evidence-based, medical care.

To address the current opioid overdose crisis– and to address, proactively, emerging epidemics related to other addictive substances such as cocaine, benzodiazepines or methamphetamine–our country must make strategic investments to incentivize and train clinicians to specialize in the prevention and treatment of SUD.

How Members of Congress Can Help:

- ✔ Co-sponsor the **Opioid Workforce Act of 2019** (H.R. 3414). This legislation will increase the number of residency positions eligible for graduate medical education payments under Medicare for hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, approved residency programs in addiction psychiatry, addiction medicine or pain medicine, with an aggregate increase of 1,000 positions over a five-year period.
- ✔ Provide **\$25 million** in fiscal year 2020 for the **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Workforce Loan Repayment Program**. This program, authorized in last year's SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, will provide student loan repayment for addiction treatment professionals who commit to working in underserved or high-risk communities.
- ✔ Provide **\$10 million** in fiscal year 2020 for the **Mental and Substance Use Disorders Workforce Training Demonstration Program**. This program, authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016, will provide grants to institutions that provide training opportunities for medical residents and fellows in psychiatry and addiction medicine, as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and others who are willing to provide SUD treatment in underserved communities.

In 2017, nearly 21 million Americans needed treatment for SUD, but only 4 million reported receiving any form of SUD treatment or ancillary services.

Both programs were fully funded in the House-passed FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.



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Addiction Medicine

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