

Addiction Medicine Advocacy
Updates

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THE ASAM ADVOCATE



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

National

ASAM Applauds Launch of HRSA Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program

On June 8, ASAM applauded the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for launching a new program that will encourage more medical students and health care professionals to pursue a career treating addiction at a time when the drug overdose crisis has been accelerating. The Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR-LRP), established by the landmark SUPPORT Act of 2018, will provide up to \$250,000 in eligible educational loans to individuals who pledge a six-year, full-time minimum service commitment to treating addiction. [Read More](#). On June 17, at 1pm ET, join a [Zoom webinar](#) with ASAM and HRSA to learn more (see also below).

ASAM Supports H.R. 2503, the Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2021

On June 1, ASAM sent a letter to bill sponsors in support of H.R. 2503, the Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2021, which would create an inter-agency technical advisory council on social determinants of health and a new federal grant program to assist state, local, and Tribal governments in tackling persistent economic and social conditions that impact the prevention and treatment of chronic medical conditions, including addiction. [Read More.](#)

CSEO Applauds Introduction of the Support, Treatment, and Overdose Prevention of (S.T.O.P) Fentanyl Act of 2021 (H.R. 2366 / S. 1457)

On May 27, the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSEO), of which ASAM is a member, praised the sponsors of the STOP Fentanyl Act for their efforts to combat the nation's addiction crisis. The legislation would expand fentanyl research and education, enhance overdose prevention and access to substance use disorder treatment, and provide critical public health data and additional training support for various stakeholders. [Read More.](#)

New FSMB Policy on Physician Health Shaped by ASAM Leaders

On May 20, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) House of Delegates approved their new policy on physician illness and impairment. ASAM leaders Dr. Yngvild Olsen, Chair, Legislative Advocacy Committee, and Dr. Jeff Selzer, Chair, Public Policy Committee, served as ASAM's representatives and subject matter experts on the FSMB Workgroup which wrote the new policy. [Read More.](#)

State

Arizona Legalizes Syringe Exchange Programs

On May 27, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed into law legislation to legalize syringe exchange programs, also known as syringe services providers. [Read more.](#)

NY Tightens Protections for Consumers Seeking Mental Health, Addiction Services

On May 25, the New York State Department of Financial Services announced plans to propose a new regulation that would require insurers to hold consumers harmless when their provider directory incorrectly lists a mental health provider as in-network. [Read more.](#)

HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND



HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

**Substance Use Disorder
Treatment and Recovery Loan
Repayment Program**

FREE WEBINAR

Thursday, June 17
1:00pm-2:00pm ET

Program awards eligible SUD healthcare professionals up to \$250,000 to pay off school loans in exchange for six years of full-time service at a STAR-approved facility.

ASAM and HRSA Host Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Webinar

On June 17 at 1 pm ET, ASAM members are invited to join a Zoom webinar with ASAM and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to learn about the new [Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program \(STAR LRP\)](#). The STAR LRP awards eligible SUD healthcare professionals up to \$250,000 to pay off school loans in exchange for six years of full-time service at a STAR-approved facility. [Join Webinar Here.](#)

Digital Behavioral Health and the Future of Treatment

On June 17, ASAM member Dr. Dan Bristow will host a webinar to discuss the impact of emerging digital behavioral health tools on the treatment of behavioral health. [Register Here.](#)

ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



[Racial Disparities in Opioid Addiction Treatment: a Primer and Research Roundup](#)

ASAM board member, Dr. Stephen Taylor, discusses ASAM's new Public Policy Statement on Advocacy Racial Justice in Addiction Medicine. Dr. Taylor served as a co-chair of the writing committee which crafted the statement.



[With the Addiction Crisis Accelerating, It's time to Remove Barriers to Evidence-Based Care](#)

ASAM board member, Dr. Nzinga Harrison, co-authors this new op-ed on the important role of contingency management in treating addiction and some of the barriers to this evidence-based tool.

ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

[Vermont Becomes First State to Legalize Limited Possession of Buprenorphine](#)

Xander Landen, VT Digger

[Mental Health Insurance Parity Gets Aggressive Focus Under Biden](#)

Sara Hansard, Bloomberg Law

[The Health 202: FDA Could Begin Ramping up Tobacco Regulation Efforts](#)

Alexandra Ellerbeck, The Washington Post

[HHS Announces \\$3 Billion in American Rescue Plan Funding for SAMHSA Block Grants to Address Addiction, Mental Health Crisis](#)

Secretary Xavier Becerra, Department of Health and Human Services

[Toomey, Manchin Team Up to Help Overdose Victims](#)

US Senators Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)

[Reps. Schneider, Kuster, McKinley Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Train More Doctors to Combat Opioid Epidemic](#)

Office of Congressman Brad Schneider

YOU CAN **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Take Action ASAM

ASAM has three “live” action alerts which ASAM members and the public can use to contact their members of Congress about ways they can strengthen the nation’s addiction treatment workforce, standardize the delivery of addiction medicine education, and ensure Medicaid coverage for eligible individuals with substance use disorder who are incarcerated. Each action alert comes with a letter ready to send; all you do is select an action, insert your information, and press “send message.”

TAKE ACTION TODAY

The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter

Kelly M. Corredor: Chief Advocacy Officer

Susan E. Awad: Director, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs

Corey Barton: Associate Director, Advocacy and Government Relations

Zachary Semple: Manager, Advocacy and Government Relations

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