



October 14, 2020

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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein and Grassley,

On behalf of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), a national medical specialty society representing more than 6,200 physicians and associated health professionals who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction, thank you for your introduction of S. 4612, the Methamphetamine Response Act. This important legislation would declare methamphetamine an emerging drug threat. In addition, it would require the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop, implement, and make public a national emerging threats response plan that is specific to methamphetamine.

By requiring the ONDCP to develop a plan to help prevent and treat methamphetamine use disorder and overdoses, the passage of this legislation would take an important step toward addressing this complex and potentially fatal disorder. In 2019, one million people suffered from methamphetamine use disorder in the past year.ⁱ Furthermore, this disorder is not only damaging families and communities across the country, but it is also costing the U.S. economy billions of dollars each year.ⁱⁱ Finally, while the impacts of methamphetamine use disorder are wide ranging, it also can be difficult to treat. For example, the ability of clinicians to use contingency management, an effective treatment for methamphetamine use disorder, is restricted by the Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General's current interpretation of federal law.

For all of these reasons, ASAM is deeply appreciative of your leadership on this legislation, and stands ready to work with you to support its passage.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Corredor, ASAM's Chief Advocacy Officer, at kcorredor@asam.org.

Sincerely,

Paul H Earley M.D.

Paul Earley, MD, DFASAM
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine

ⁱ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, September 2020.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt29393/2019NSDUHFFRPDFWHTML/2019NSDUHFFR1PDFW090120.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Nicosia, Nancy, Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, Beau Kilmer, Russell Lundberg, and James Chiesa. The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use in the United States, 2005. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2009.

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG829.html>.