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# THE ASAM **ADVOCATE**



## ADVOCACY **HIGHLIGHTS**

### National

#### **ASAM Joins Mental Health Liaison Group's Effort to Support the Moms Matter Act**

On August 23rd, ASAM joined dozens of other organizations in sending a letter to House Energy and Commerce Committee leadership in support of the Moms Matter Act. The Moms Matter Act is a bipartisan bill that would increase federal funding for culturally congruent, community-based mental and behavioral health programs in underserved areas. [Read more.](#)

#### **ASAM Supports Passage of the Making Essentials Affordable and Lawful (MEAL) Act**

On August 24th, ASAM sent a letter to Representative Cohen in support of his Making Essentials Affordable and Lawful (MEAL) Act. The MEAL Act would extend Supplemental Nutritional Assistance (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits to individuals with felony drug convictions. [Read more.](#)

## **ASAM Reiterates Support for the Simultaneous Passage of the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act and the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act**

On August 5th, ASAM sent a letter to Biden Administration officials reiterating ASAM's strong support for the simultaneous passage of the bipartisan, bicameral MAT and MATE Acts. Together, these critical pieces of legislation would remove unnecessary regulations on buprenorphine for OUD while expanding prescriber education on treating patients with substance use disorder. [Read more.](#)

## **State**

### **KYSAM Urges Retraction of Board of Medical Licensure Opinion Relating to Telemedicine and MAT**

On August 9th, the Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine (KYSAM) sent a letter to the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure in response to the board's recent [Board Opinion Relating to Online/Virtual Medication Assisted Treatment](#). KYSAM urged KMBL to retract its opinion restricting access to medications for addiction treatment (MAT) via telemedicine. [Read more.](#)

### **Governor Pritzker Signs Landmark, ISAM-Supported Parity Bill into Law**

On August 25th, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed H.B. 2595, the Generally Accepted Standards of Behavioral Health Care Act of 2021, into law. The legislation requires insurers in the state to cover all medically necessary care for mental health and substance use disorder and strengthens state parity law. [Read more.](#)

### **MISAM Urges Change in State Regulation of MAT**

On September 1st, the Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine (MISAM) sent a letter to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), outlining MISAM's concerns about the state's regulation of medications for addiction treatment (MAT). MISAM conveyed a desire to work with LARA and revise the rules to streamline regulatory requirements and expand patient access to lifesaving treatment. [Read more.](#)



## September is National Recovery Month

The calendar turning to September marks the start of National Recovery Month! National Recovery Month is an annual observance held to promote and support evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation. For National Recovery Month 2021, Faces & Voices of Recovery is hosting a variety of both online and offline events. [View calendar here.](#)

## ONC Webinar on September 14th

On September 14th from 1-2PM EST, the Office for National Coordination and Health Information Technology is hosting the first in a series of webinars to discuss the information blocking requirements of the 21st Century Cures Act. [Register here.](#)

## ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES



### [COVID Casts Spotlight on Gaps in Addiction Services](#)

ASAM board member, Dr. Shawn Ryan, speaks about the difficulties of attracting qualified practitioners to the field of addiction medicine. He discussed the issue of insufficient reimbursement and highlighted the [Medicaid Bump Act](#) as an essential piece of legislation to help remedy the issue.



### [The Pandemic Changed the Trajectory of America's Overdose and Suicide crises](#)

ASAM immediate past president, Dr. Paul Earley, comments on the pattern of increased overdose deaths since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS

### [Drug Overdose Deaths in 2020 Were Horrifying](#)

Nora D. Volkow, Scientific American

### [Loopholes Leave Gaps in Mandated Coverage for Mental Health](#)

Reed Abelson, New York Times

### [Medically, Legally, and Morally, Emergency Departments Cannot Ignore Addiction Care](#)

Sika Yeboah-Sampong and Gail D'Onofrio, STAT News

### [Drugs that Treat Opioid Addiction and Overdoses Not Widely Available in Federal Prisons](#)

Beth Swartzapfel, USA Today

### [It's Never Been More Urgent to Give Safe Injection Sites a Try](#)

The Editorial Board, The Boston Globe

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## **Advocate for Addiction Medicine During National Recovery Month!**

National Recovery Month is a national observance held every September to promote and support evidence-based treatment and recovery practices. Now is a great time to get the attention of your Members of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act/Opioid Workforce Act, the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act, and the Medicaid Reentry Act.

[TAKE ACTION TODAY](#)

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The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter

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