Strengthening the Addiction Treatment Workforce and Improving Coverage for Addiction Treatment Emerge as Themes at Congressional Hearing

On March 3, Dr. Shawn Ryan, the chair of ASAM’s Legislative Advocacy Committee, discussed strengthening the addiction treatment workforce and improving coverage for addiction treatment
among other issues while testifying before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
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Bipartisan Opioid Task Force Releases 2020 Legislative Agenda
On February 27, the U.S. House of Representatives' Bipartisan Opioid Task Force released its agenda for this legislative session, which covers a wide array of topics, from prevention and treatment to workforce development, criminal justice reform, and law enforcement.
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STATE

ORSAM Submits Comments on Oregon's Proposed 1115 Waiver Application
On February 20, the Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine submitted comments on Oregon's 1115 waiver proposal application, which would waive the Medicaid IMD exclusion among other changes.
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INSAM Supports Legislation to Strengthen Parity Enforcement
On February 25, the Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine (INSAM) sent a letter to the Indiana House Committee on Insurance in support of SB208, which would make significant changes to Indiana's parity enforcement, among other things.
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HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

ASAM Attends the American Medical Association's 2020 National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.
On February 11, Ilse R. Levin, D.O., Chair, ASAM Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA), and Kelly M. Corredor, ASAM's Vice President, Advocacy and
Government Relations, attended the AMA's 2020 National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.
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ASAM Board Member Dr. Anika Alvanzo Participates In Panel Discussion on the Opioid Epidemic
On February 27, ASAM Board Member Dr. Anika Alvanzo stressed the importance of passing three critical pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening the addiction treatment workforce at a panel discussion hosted by The Hill.
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ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES
Trahan-Sponsored Opioid Legislation, The MATE Act, Subject of House Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing
The chair of ASAM's Legislative Advocacy Committee, Dr. Shawn Ryan, as well as ASAM member Dr. James Baker urge passage of the MATE Act.

This State Has Figured Out How to Treat Inmates with Addiction
Pew covers Rhode Island's approach to treating incarcerated individuals and speaks with ASAM member Dr. Corey Waller about his experience treating patients in corrections facilities.
COVID-19 Guidance for Opioid Treatment Programs
SAMHSA

AG Healey Reaches $1 Million Settlement With 7 Companies To Increase Behavioral Health Access
Deborah Becker, WBUR

Standards of Care – How to Appeal Denials of Coverage
National Council for Behavioral Health

House Votes to Ban Flavored Tobacco to Curb Youth Vaping Epidemic
Mike DeBonis, The Washington Post

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

National Council on Behavioral Health to Host Webinar on Implementing MAT for Opioid Use Disorder in Jails and Prisons
Click [here](#) to register for the webinar, which will also discuss the newly released toolkit, *Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Jails and Prisons*.

**HRSA Accepting Applications for NHSC Loan Repayment Programs: One Application, Three Programs**

Share [this link](#) to spread the word about the NHSC Loan Repayment Program, the NHSC SUD Workforce Loan Repayment Program, and the NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program.

**SHARE ON TWITTER**

Help [share](#) Representative Lori Trahan’s tweet on the Energy and Commerce hearing on key addiction treatment workforce bills like the MATE Act!

Today, [@EnergyCommerce](#) considered a slate of bills to help patients w/ substance use disorders. Among them was the #MATEAct - legislation I introduced that will increase the number of physicians prepared to help prevent and treat addiction, & break down the stigma surrounding it.

**BEFORE YOU GO…**

Help ASAM [thank](#) Dr. Shawn Ryan for Testifying to House Committee on Energy and Commerce About Addiction and Recovery to urge lawmakers to advance bills that would ensure the treatment of addiction is taught, standardized, and covered
During the @EnergyCommerce hearing today, ASAM Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair @DrShawnRyan1 urged lawmakers to advance bills that would ensure the treatment of addiction is taught, standardized, and covered. Learn more: ow.ly/E2sk50yC5ue #TreatAddictionSaveLives