

A NATIONAL RESPONSE TO A DEADLY CRISIS:

SUPPORT Full-Spectrum Addiction Care

Congressional Briefing | May 10, 2023

1. PRIORITIZE PREVENTION, HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND EQUITY.

The United States' response to personal substance use must shift towards health and wellness. We must invest in policies and programs that help address underlying structural and social determinants of addiction, reduce harms, and improve access to full-spectrum, patient-centered, addiction care for all people.

2. ESTABLISH UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO ADDICTION MEDICATIONS AS STANDARD OF CARE.

Drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., despite the existence of medications clinically effective for the treatment of substance use disorder. Universal access to addiction medications, when clinically appropriate for those who need them, is the least this country can do to address its addiction and overdose crisis. Universal access to addiction medications should be the minimum standard of care.

3. ENSURE APPROPRIATE COVERAGE OF, AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR, EFFECTIVE ADDICTION CARE.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) has defined the continuum of addiction care. Public and private payers should comprehensively cover, and appropriately reimburse for, the entire continuum of clinically effective and appropriate services, including all levels of care defined by The ASAM Criteria. Insurance coverage should ensure adequate access to evidence-based care, including psychosocial treatments, for addiction and should be no more restrictive than coverage for other medical conditions.

4. STRENGTHEN THE ADDICTION CARE WORKFORCE.

There are not enough healthcare professionals in the United States with the requisite knowledge and training to meet the needs of people suffering with substance use disorder. People with substance use disorder need more access to addiction specialist physicians, other physicians, psychologists, social workers, counselors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses, pharmacists, occupational therapists, peer recovery specialists, as well as researchers, among others, to work collaboratively to address the biopsychosocial needs of people with substance use disorder.

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Organizations Supporting These Four Big Ideas



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine



American College of
Emergency Physicians®



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION



**FACES & VOICES
OF RECOVERY**

- Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
- American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
- A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
- California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
- Connecticut Certification Board
- International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
- Legal Action Center
- National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)
- NAMA Recovery
- National Behavioral Health Association of Providers
- National Board for Certified Counselors
- National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- National Safety Council
- Overdose Prevention Initiative
- Partnership to End Addiction
- RI International
- SMART Recovery
- Shatterproof
- Stop Stigma Now
- The Kennedy Forum
- Treatment Communities of America
- Young People in Recovery

Disclaimer: The specific views and opinions expressed during the Congressional Briefing, "A National Response To A Deadly Crisis: SUPPORT Full-Spectrum Addiction Care," on May 10, 2023, are only those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any organization except to the extent the speaker explicitly notes otherwise.