



American Society of Addiction Medicine

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August 13, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Washington, DC 20510

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United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
United States Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senators Hatch, Markey, Ayotte, Brown, Capito, Collins, Durbin, Feinstein, Hirono, King, Kirk, Paul, and Whitehouse:

On behalf of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), which represents more than 3,500 physicians, clinicians and associated professionals who specialize in the treatment of addiction, I would like to

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thank you for your August 7, 2015 letter to Secretary Burwell urging her to use her authority to increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) by lifting the buprenorphine patient cap.

The current cap has been shown to limit treatment access, and it prevents many patients from receiving evidence-based care at a time when our nation is facing an epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths. Recognizing the effectiveness of buprenorphine as an integral part of evidence-based, comprehensive opioid addiction treatment, ASAM supports lifting the cap for highly trained and qualified physicians and advance-practice providers (e.g., nurse practitioners and physician assistants). We have shared our specific [recommendations](#) for how the cap can be lifted responsibly with Secretary Burwell.

ASAM commends you for your leadership on this important public health issue and looks forward to continuing to work with Congress and the Administration to increase access to high-quality treatment for the millions of Americans affected by addiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Jeffrey Goldsmith, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "R" and "J" being particularly large and stylized.

R. Jeffrey Goldsmith, MD, DLFAPA, FASAM
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine