



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

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Media Contact

Sarah Shelson
301-547-4110
sshelson@ASAM.org

ASAM Statement on the 2026 National Drug Control Strategy

WASHINGTON – Today, American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) President Stephen M. Taylor, MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFASAM, participated in an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) hosted panel focused on bringing addiction treatment into the mainstream of healthcare. The panel discussion was part of a launch event for the 2026 National Drug Control Strategy, held in Washington.

The National Drug Control Strategy was officially released on Monday, May 4. In response to the new strategy, Dr. Taylor issued the following statement:

“ASAM appreciates the National Drug Control Strategy’s laudable goal of increasing access to evidence-based treatment for people with substance use disorders (SUD). The strategy rightly reinforces addiction as a chronic disease for which evidence-based treatments exist, including medication and psychosocial treatments that save lives and support recovery.

Achieving these bold demand-side goals, however, will require equally bold investments in the nation’s addiction treatment infrastructure and meaningful policy changes at the federal level.

The strategy’s focus on building addiction treatment capacity that is integrated into the broader healthcare system, including by increasing SUD treatment in hospitals and encouraging national consensus-based standards for addiction treatment that ensure the use of evidence-based approaches, is essential if we hope to improve the health and well-being of patients with SUD. Sustainable financing is necessary to make this a reality for all Americans in need.

Looking beyond the strategy, ASAM maintains that Congress also plays a pivotal role in incorporating addiction care into mainstream healthcare and financing systems. For this reason, we continue to urge federal lawmakers to improve patient access to methadone treatment for opioid use disorder through medical care models using pharmacies, and to close a dangerous gap in Medicare coverage for residential addiction treatment programs that meet nationally recognized standards.

We look forward to working with all policymakers to promote patient access to evidence-based treatments and the personalized recovery supports that help people build meaningful lives.”

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About the American Society of Addiction Medicine

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), founded in 1954, is a professional medical society representing over 8,000 physicians, clinicians, and associated professionals in the field of addiction medicine. ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction. For more information, visit www.ASAM.org.