



**ASAM** American Society of  
Addiction Medicine

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 13, 2025

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**ASAM: Sweeping Medicaid Reforms Could Weaken America's  
Addiction Treatment Efforts, Pose a National Security Threat**

*To save lives and undermine the influence of drug cartels, ASAM urges Congress to exempt addiction-related treatment services from cost-sharing mandates and reject burdensome work requirements*

**Rockville, MD** – In response to Sunday's release of the [House Energy & Commerce Committee's bill text to reform Medicaid funding](#), Stephen M. Taylor, MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFASAM, president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), issued the following statement:

"ASAM firmly opposes any harmful Medicaid reforms which threaten to make lifesaving addiction treatment less accessible to Americans. Should the out-of-pocket costs of treatment services for low-income Americans with addiction exceed the price of legal or illicit addictive substances due to health insurance loss or new Medicaid requirements, we risk losing valuable ground in our addiction and recovery efforts.

In particular, we are greatly concerned that proposals to impose cost-sharing requirements on Medicaid Expansion enrollees – including those with substance use disorders – could make addiction-related treatment services even more costly than cheaper tobacco products, alcohol, and illicit drugs. Further, while we deeply appreciate the Committee's exemption of people with a substance use disorder from the proposed work requirements, we maintain serious concerns over how this and other exemptions will be implemented. Time and energy spent on excessive bureaucratic red tape and surveillance could be better used to ensure that more Americans with low incomes can readily access and afford the medical care they need and deserve, including through programs like Medicaid Expansion.

Medicaid Expansion is a powerful weapon against addiction and the drug cartels, because it can reduce demand for illicit substances and help more Americans with addiction enter

treatment. It must be protected, especially as we continue to lose tens of thousands of lives each year to the nation's addiction and overdose crisis.”

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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](http://www.ASAM.org).