

# How ASAM Advocacy Staff Can Help State Chapters with their State Advocacy

ASAM's [State Advocacy page](#) provides several resources to assist chapters in their state advocacy work. Additionally, ASAM Advocacy staff can help chapters identify legislation of interest and provide individualized legislative reports.

When chapters select policy areas of interest, ASAM Advocacy staff can assist with monitoring priority state legislation, provide writing support for letters, testimony, and action alerts, and assist with advocacy-related media placements.



## Customized Legislative Tracking Reports

Legislative tracking reports are sent by ASAM Advocacy staff on a weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly basis to keep members informed about the status of state legislation. These reports provide a list of updates directly to members and can help chapters plan their engagement. These reports are especially useful when state activity peaks during the legislative session.



## Letters

Letters can help establish a chapter's position on certain policy issues. Letters can be sent in response to legislation, regulation, or they can be informational. Letters are useful to boost stakeholder awareness of the chapter and can lead to additional engagement.



## Testimony

Committee hearings often include opportunities for testimony. When providing testimony, chapter leadership can appear before committees to offer their perspective and professional expertise, engage with lawmakers in real time, and respectfully respond to opposing positions. Most committees offer the option for in-person or remote testimony.



## Actions Alerts

Upon request, ASAM Advocacy staff can provide writing support to state chapters for action alert emails that chapter leadership can send to its chapter's members. These alerts can help mobilize chapter membership behind a specific policy objective. The alerts can offer each person a prompted message to maximize clarity.



## Media Placement

ASAM Advocacy staff can also connect chapter members with regional and local media outlets to comment on state issues impacting the practice of addiction medicine/psychiatry. Publishing op-eds in state outlets can be an effective strategy to draw public attention to an issue.



## Hiring a Lobbyist

Each state has different rules and regulations around lobbying activity. ASAM Advocacy staff are not registered state lobbyists, and, therefore, have very limited engagement with state officials. However, ASAM Advocacy staff can work with ASAM state chapters to help them identify a state lobbyist if the need arises.



## Strategic Planning

ASAM understands that navigating state advocacy is a challenge for clinicians who have multiple, competing demands for their time. ASAM Advocacy staff are available to discuss strategy options with state chapters.