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Welcome!
Goals for Today's Call

- Learn How & Why It's Important to Connect with Policymakers at Home
- Overview Digital Advocacy and Why It's Effective
- Review Action Items for August Recess



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Call Agenda

- About Congressional Recess
- Advantages of In-District Meetings and Events
- Digital Advocacy for Your Meeting and Beyond
- Summer Homework: Make a Difference this August
- Questions and Review



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What is Congressional Recess?

While the August Congressional recess (also known as an “in-district work period”) began as a way to escape the heat, the tradition has stayed on long past the advent of air conditioning to allow Members of Congress to spend extended time with their constituents.

In addition to the August recess, Congress will also often recess around major holidays and in the spring.



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Scheduling a Meeting: Why

During this time, very little, if any, official business is scheduled in D.C. Instead, Members of Congress are encouraged to connect with “folks back home” and will also often host listening sessions, town halls or other informal and open events.

Members are often more relaxed with more time to talk about your issues and meetings are less formal than they would be on Capitol Hill.



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Scheduling a Meeting: How

Ways to Connect At Home With Your Member of Congress

- Sign-up for their newsletter and watch for open events and town halls
- Look up their district locations and check for open hours or request a meeting
- Invite a Member of Congress to visit your office or clinic
- Look up your Members of Congress on townhallproject.com



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Preparing for Your Meeting



The form is titled "August 2021 Recess In-District Visit Planning + Report Sheet". It includes fields for "Elected Official's Name", "Office Location", "Official Staff Attending Meeting", and "Date and Time of Visit".

1. The issue or bill you are talking about:

- Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act (H.R. 3441) / Opioid Workforce Act (S.1438), which would provide an additional 1,000 Medicare graduate medical education (GME) slots to qualifying hospitals that have established, or will establish, approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, pain medicine, and corresponding prerequisite programs.
- Medicaid Reentry Act (H.R. 955/S.285), which would allow states to restart Medicaid coverage for Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated, up to 30 days before their release from jail or prison.

2. Please notes about the Member of Congress:

Party _____ Home/State _____

Committee _____

Sponsored Legislation _____

3. Other people attending this visit:

Congressional Staff _____

Other addiction medicine advocates _____

Others _____

Prepare what you'd like to talk about depending on the format - should you be ready with a question for an open forum? Or create an agenda and plan a tour? Ask ASAM Advocacy Staff for an In-District Meeting Planning Form to help you prepare for an in-district meeting.

Be sure to talk with the ASAM advocacy team before and after your meeting to share talking points and updates on what was shared.



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What to Talk About

For August 2021 recess meetings, focus on asking Members to co-sponsor:

Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act (H.R. 3441) / Opioid Workforce Act (S.1438), which would provide an additional 1,000 Medicare graduate medical education (GME) slots to qualifying hospitals that have established, or will establish, approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, pain medicine, and corresponding prerequisite programs.

Medicaid Reentry Act (H.R. 955/S.285), which would allow states to restart Medicaid coverage for Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated, up to 30 days before their release from jail or prison.

If a Member has already co-sponsored a piece of legislation, **thank them for their support!**



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The Opioid Workforce/Substance Use Workforce Act

This legislation would create 1,000 additional residency positions over five years to qualifying hospitals that have established, or will establish, approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, pain medicine, and corresponding prerequisite programs.

*In 2020, more than 93,000 drug overdose deaths in the US last year — an increase of almost 30% from 2019.

*As of June 2021, there are only 83 addiction medicine fellowships accredited by ACGME.

Original Sponsors- House

- Brad Schneider (IL-10)
- David McKinley (WV-1)
- Ann Kuster (NH-2)

Original Sponsors- Senate

- Maggie Hassan (NH)
- Susan Collins (ME)



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Medicaid Reentry Act

ASAM supports the Medicaid Reentry Act, which would grant states limited new flexibility to restart benefits for Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals 30 days prior to release. Use [AMAC 2021 "Cover It" Talking Points](#) as a resource.

Original Sponsors- House

- Paul Tonko (NY-20)
- Mike Turner (OH-10)
- David Trone (MD-6)
- David McKinley (WV-6)
- Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
- Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1)
- Alcee Hastings (FL-20)

Original Sponsors- Senate

- Tammy Baldwin (WI)
- Mike Braun (IN)
- Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)
- Sherrod Brown (OH)



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Use Digital Advocacy to Amplify Your Meeting



If possible, take photos during your interaction with the Member or their staff and share them on social media afterward. Be sure to tag your Member of Congress as well as ASAM. Sharing your meeting with your followers helps to amplify the ASAM message and is appreciated by Members of Congress for showing them hard at work and meeting with constituents.

We can help draft a message if needed, but be sure to say, “thank you!”



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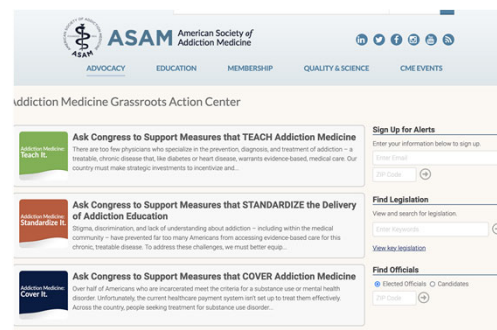
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Beyond Meetings: Other Ways To Use Digital Advocacy

Beyond holding an in-person meeting, you can still make an advocacy impact digitally. Here's how:

- Like your Members of Congress' Facebook pages and comment in support of addiction medicine policy.
- Follow your Members of Congress on Twitter and tag them in your tweets about policy.
- If you haven't already: Join our Twitter DM group by emailing Kristen at kburke@schmidtpt.com
- Send letters directly to Congressional offices using ASAM's advocacy center VoterVoice tool at www.asam.org/advocacy/take-action which connects you directly to your members of Congress.



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Summer Homework- How AMAN Can Make a Difference This August

One

Request an in-district meeting with at least one Member of Congress (or their staff) or attend an in-district event.

Two

Send an email to your Member(s) of Congress using ASAM's VoterVoice Tool on **August 12**.

Three

Tweet at your Member(s) of Congress on **August 12** using the prepared language from ASAM.

Suggested Tweet:

This August, [@Member of Congress], we hope you'll consider supporting legislation to help us #treataddictionsavelives: the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act (H.R. 3441), the Opioid Workforce Act (S.1438) & the Medicaid Reentry Act (H.R. 955/S.285).

Save the Date: August 12!



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Questions?



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