



The National Advocacy Campaign

to Eliminate Discrimination Against People in Recovery from Addiction
and to Expand and Improve the Full Continuum of
Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, and Research

Opportunities to Create Change Need Federal Advocacy Now!

Changes in Washington, DC, present an unparalleled opportunity for those committed to preventing and treating alcohol and drug problems and promoting recovery. There has never been a greater need for strong, sophisticated, and coordinated advocacy to ensure our country addresses the healthcare aspects of addiction. **We have vast opportunities to change policy, increase funding, and ensure the continuity of the nation's addiction healthcare system, but we must act now to:**

- **Ensure the widest dissemination of the "Roadmap for Smarter and More Effective Alcohol and Drug Policies."** The Roadmap outlines the need for prevention, treatment and recovery services, the need for increased funding to support these services, and a plan to reduce stigma and discrimination.
- **Educate policy makers about the pervasive effects of drug and alcohol addiction on our nation's health and wellness and the need to include addiction healthcare services in every discussion on healthcare reform.** Untreated addiction touches the lives of every American either directly or indirectly and costs states and the Federal government an estimated \$300 billion per year.
- **Eliminate stigma and remove barriers that make it much harder for people in to reintegrate into families, communities and the workforce.** People in recovery encounter debilitating barriers that prevent them from obtaining food stamps, driver's licenses, student loans and employment.
- **Overtake policies that prevent access to critical, life-saving treatment services.**

If we do not act what will happen?

If we do nothing, at best, the result will be the status quo and the **status quo in addiction funding and policy IS NOT acceptable.** At worst, we could see our funding cut further as the economic crisis deepens. We could see a continued trend away from prevention, treatment, and recovery toward law enforcement and interdiction. We could see the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) become ineffective or even eliminated at a time when their leadership in the field is crucial.

What You Can Do:

- **Join the National Advocacy Campaign and help support the nationwide movement to change alcohol and drug policy and to eliminate stigma and remove barriers for people in recovery.**
- **Share the LAC/SAAS Roadmap with your State and Federal legislators.**
- **Schedule meetings with legislators to discuss the importance of adequately funding addiction healthcare services and the need to include addiction healthcare in all discussions about healthcare reform.**

With strong advocacy, we can achieve policy reforms to save millions of lives and strengthen families and communities across this nation.



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