The Intersection of Politics, Policy, & Practice
Progress in 115th Congress

- Loan Repayment
- IMD Exclusion
- Protected Privacy
SUPPORT for Patients Communities Act (P. L. 115-271)

NAADAC Working for You

- Engaged House & Senate Committees, key lawmakers
- Timely outreach during negotiations

NAADAC action alerts
NAADAC letters to House & Senate

Influenced changes to the final bill
Signed into law

Key Provisions:

- Incentivize pursuit of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment professions by offering student loan relief (Rep. Clark and Rep. Rogers, Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act);
- Protect against the erosion of privacy rights of individuals with SUD; and
- Remove the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion for all SUD treatment by allowing Medicaid payment for up to 30 days annually.
Recap: The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act

Offers student loan repayment up to $250,000 for participants who:

- Work as SUD treatment professionals;
- Are employed in a full-time SUD treatment position in a high need area for up to six years;
- Serve in a direct patient care role (such as physician, nurse, social worker, therapist, or counselor);
- Are employed in a healthcare shortage area or area with a high rate of drug overdose deaths; and who are Masters-trained professionals.
Recap: IMD Exclusion

- Prohibited federal Medicaid reimbursements to inpatient treatment centers with more than 16 beds

- H.R. 6: Repealed for all SUD treatment; allows Medicaid payment for eligible individuals for up to 30 days annually
Jessie’s Law

- Develop best practices for prominently displaying SUD treatment information in electronic health records, when requested by the patient.

- Consider the benefits of displaying SUD information in the same way that other potentially life-threatening information appear, like drug allergies or contraindications.

- Assess the importance of patient privacy and consent requirements for SUD history disclosure.
Negotiating Privacy: 42 CFR Part 2

- Intense debate over privacy protections in H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act [P. L. 115-271]
  - House Committee
  - House floor

- Senate limited their work in this arena.
  - Jessie’s Law vs. HIPPA standards

- Part 2 reform left on cutting room floor but...
NAADAC’s Legislative Priorities in the 116th: Investing in the Addiction Workforce
Challenges in 116th Congress

- Victories can be hollow without $$$
- Efforts to reform Part 2 already underway
- Efforts to move the profession forward
- Raising NAADAC’s profile
Established to help incentivize students to pursue substance use disorder treatment professions by providing student loan relief.

The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act would provide up to $250,000 toward student loan repayment.

Support funding request of $25 million in the FY2020 L-HHS Appropriations

Include bachelor-level trained professionals as well.
Support the National Health Service Corp

SUD Counselors qualify for loan repayment program

- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program in exchange for Service
  - Scholarships
  - Loan Repayments for Education and Training Costs

- $8.56 billion funding request for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Programs in FY2020
The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is a grant initiative that awards funding to organizations to support the development of behavioral health practitioners.

- NAADAC has partnered with MFP over the last 5 years in order to increase the diversity of the behavioral health workforce in order to:
  - Improve prevention
  - Wellness
  - Treatment for minority populations

- $14.7 million funding request for MFP in FY2020
H.R. 2062
- Eliminates the SUD patient’s current right to consent to SUD treatment information disclosure
- Aligns HIPPA standards with 42 CFR Part 2 (Part 2)
- May discourage seeking SUD treatment

House Energy and Commerce Committee
- Chairman Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)
  - Opposed the Legislation in the 115th

Will Congress re-litigate this issue?
The 116th:
Forecasting the Legislative Agenda
New House, New Committees
- Chairs and agendas
- Committee sizes

Implications of a divided Congress

Most diverse Congress in history
New House Majority Priorities in the 116th Congress

- Health Care Featured Prominently in Election, particularly around preexisting conditions
- Reinforce the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Protect coverage of pre-existing conditions; Stabilize health insurance marketplaces.
- Oversight: House committees to scrutinize the Trump Administration’s regulatory actions on the ACA, Medicare and Medicaid.
Areas for Bipartisan Cooperation in 116th

- Lower Prescription Drug Prices
- Health Care Workforce Development
- Payment Reform – Value and Quality over Volume and Fee-for-Service
- More work on Opioids and Substance Use Disorders
"If you're not at the table, you're on the menu"?

- Invest in the future of your profession
- Become a resource, cultivate new contacts and champions
- Most importantly, earn a seat at the table
“In the Know”
Know Your Member of Congress
“In the Know”
Know the Power of Congressional Staff

Congressional Staff

What my friends think I do
What my mom thinks I do
What the public thinks I do

What my boss thinks I do
What I think I do
What I actually do
“In the Know”
Know the “Hot Topics”

Immigration
Foreign Affairs
Appropriations
Housing
Transportation
Labor
Energy
Environment
Trade
Telecommunications
Defense
Finance
Education
Tax

HEALTH POLICY
Know Your Elevator Speech

It is a 30 second speech about you.

Your Elevator Speech Should Have:

- Key Messages/Goals
- Information about your Institution/Organization
- Brief outline of your “asks”
- Highlight Your Expertise

How exciting -- Please tell me more!
Meeting Expectations

- Advocacy Packets
- Youthful Staffers
- Meeting Location
- Meeting Length
Pointers for a Successful Meeting

- Strong Introduction
- Don’t Use Jargon
- Be an Honest Broker
- Be a Resource
Advocate for Your Profession with NAADAC Nationally

Monitor NAADAC’s efforts by subscribing to alerts

Engage your Reps and Senators on NAADAC’s Take Action page

Follow NAADAC on social media
Advocate for Your Profession with NAADAC Locally

Engage your Reps and Senators at their district/local offices

Follow your Reps and Senators on social media to stay up to date on events they attend
Bring It Home with You

- Take these skills back home and organize a group to visit your lawmakers
- Invite them to visit your facility
- Participate in town halls
- Volunteer
- Share your interactions with NAADAC and utilize those relationships to move profession forward.
Thank You!

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