



# NAADAC Continues Working to Address National Addiction Professional Credentials

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At this year’s Advocacy in Action Conference and Virtual Hill Day on April 15, NAADAC members from around the country met virtually with Congressional offices urging support for a resolution that highlights the addiction profession and the requisite knowledge, training, competencies, and credentials needed for delivering quality, effective substance use disorder counseling. On April 30, 2021, Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Bill Johnson (R-OH), David Trone (D-MD), and Paul Tonko (D-NY) introduced H.Res. 364 to recognize the contributions of the addiction workforce.

Access to high-quality, effective treatment and recovery services is critical to addressing our nation’s addiction epidemic. Licensure and credentialing requirements, however, vary greatly from state to state and serve as a barrier to entry, advancement, and retention for this key segment of the workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic has also accelerated the advancement of telehealth as an acceptable form of assessment and treatment, so it is more important than ever that we have standardized credentials that are able to cross state boundaries and offer the support that a mobile society of people in recovery needs to have in their lives.

A standard, recognizable set of addiction professional credentials would provide clarity for providers and payers, as well as assurance to individuals seeking quality, effective treatment and recovery services for themselves or their loved ones. NAADAC is actively working with Congress, states, and other stakeholders in the addiction workforce to support national credentials that have been developed to ensure standardized training and education requirements are utilized to educate, train, and credential the next generation of addiction professionals.

The pressure from other disciplines to treat substance use disorders without the specific education, training and experience is an ongoing assault on the addiction profession. We know that a Master’s degree in a counseling profession such as social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health does not confer adequate skills and competencies in substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery support. Yet, in many states, we see counselors in these other disciplines being allowed to treat substance use disorder without meeting the TAP 21

competencies. It is vital that we work to promulgate national credentials for the addiction profession to best protect and provide quality and effective treatment for those we serve.

Please contact your Representative and ask them to cosponsor H.Res. 364! We need your voice, and your legislators to support this resolution! Your representative can add their name to the list of cosponsors by contacting Burke Smith in Rep. Dave Joyce’s office at [Burke.Smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Burke.Smith@mail.house.gov).



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