



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2021 - 01
October 2021
San Antonio, TX

A Resolution Encouraging State Controlled Substances Authorities to Review and Assess Their State Laws and Regulations to Remove Unnecessary Barriers to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

WHEREAS, recent reports from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that more than 87,000 people have died from drug overdose, an increase of almost 30 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, underscoring the urgent need for an integrated and comprehensive approach; and

WHEREAS, about nine in ten suffering from substance use are not receiving any treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General has found in a recent report that 40 percent of counties in the United States did not have a single provider who can prescribe buprenorphine; and

WHEREAS, the Office of National Drug Control Policy in its April 1, 2021, strategy announcement identified, as its top priority, the need to expand access to evidence-based treatment, noting that individuals with substance use disorders have faced stigma and other barriers inside and outside of health care and addiction services; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of access to effective treatment for opioid use disorder to address the opioid crisis, pending federal legislation includes additional measures to reduce barriers to treatment, including specifically, reducing barriers to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) or Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD); and

WHEREAS, MAT medications carry the risk of diversion; however, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (November 2, 2020, Interim Final Rule (3), ". . . the primary reason for prescription buprenorphine (Subutex) and buprenorphine combined with naloxone (Suboxone) diversion is the failure to access legitimate addiction treatment;" and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) proactively supports federal and state measures to reduce barriers to effective treatment for substance abuse disorders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NASCSA encourages state Controlled Substances Authorities to review and assess their state laws and regulations to remove unnecessary barriers to opioid use disorder treatment.

ATTEST:
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Fontana", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: October 27, 2021

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths. April 4, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2020). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP20-07-01-001, NSDUH Series H-55). Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/release/2019-national-survey-drug-use-and-health-nsduh-releases>
3. DEA Interim Final Rule, Federal Register, November 4, 2020.