



# ASAM American Society of Addiction Medicine

June 18, 2019

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1895-1989

The Honorable Gene DiGirolamo  
House Human Services Committee  
East Wing Building, Room 49  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Opposition to SB675

Dear Chairman DiGirolamo and members of the House Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and the Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine (PSAM), we would like to take this opportunity to provide our opposition to SB675. With the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic significantly impacting the country and Pennsylvania, ASAM and PSAM are concerned that the duplicative certification requirements established by the bill, as well as the proposed licensing fee for Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) practices as outlined in SB675 will result in decreased access to lifesaving care. We cannot support the bill in its current form.

ASAM and PSAM are dedicated to increasing access to and improving the quality of addiction treatment for patients in Pennsylvania and across the nation. In the midst of a national opioid addiction and overdose epidemic, we must do everything we can to strengthen and grow the workforce that treats the disease of addiction in order to widen access to the clinically proven treatment services that do help people recover. With the state considering additional requirements for Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) practices, where waived physicians prescribe buprenorphine in an outpatient setting, it is critical that any regulation the state considers does not impede physicians' interest in providing addiction treatment services and prevent patients from accessing the right care they need exactly when they need it, as outlined in ASAM's [Public Policy Statement on the Regulation of Office-Based Opioid Treatment](#).

The licensure program to be established by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs for OBOT providers as qualified by training and experience in order to prescribe buprenorphine would create a duplicative process for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to practice OBOT as established by the federal Drug Addiction

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**ASAM** American Society of  
Addiction Medicine

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Public Policy Chair, Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine

**CC:**

- The Honorable Angel Cruz, Democratic Chair, House Human Services Committee**
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