

December 13, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

There is an urgent need for policy action before the end of your Administration's term.

Given the nation's drug overdose crisis, we ask you to immediately lift the current [\\$75 maximum restriction](#) in certain federal grant programs on patient incentives for recovery behaviors (known as Contingency Management or CM) from opioid, stimulant, and alcohol use disorders. Lifting this cap is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of treatments for substance use disorders.

In 2022, [34,000](#) Americans died from overdoses involving stimulants. Yet, there are no FDA-approved medications for treating Stimulant Use Disorder. Contingency Management has emerged as the standard of care for this disease, according to [the leading medical societies](#) in the field of addiction treatment. Unfortunately, access to this treatment is undermined by the existing financial restrictions imposed by SAMHSA and other federal agencies.

The current \$75 cap policy contradicts over six decades of scientific research supporting the efficacy of higher incentives. It also fails to recognize the legality of higher incentive amounts, given an [Advisory Opinion](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), which allows for up to \$599 per patient per year.

In your Year 1 [Drug Policy Priorities](#), you promised to "Identify and address policy barriers related to contingency management interventions (motivational incentives) for stimulant use disorder." Yet this major policy barrier remains. There is only one month left for the Administration to follow through on this promise.

Given the urgency of the addiction crisis and the strong backing by scientific evidence, we respectfully urge the administration to increase the cap on patient incentives. Lifting this limit would save lives and enhance recovery outcomes across the nation.

We, the undersigned organizations and individual stakeholders, researchers, and advocates for patients and families suffering from this national epidemic, appreciate your attention to this critical issue and look forward to your support in making a necessary adjustment that reflects best practices and scientific guidance.

Thank you.

## STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

- Addiction Policy Forum
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP)
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
- Behavioral Health Foundation
- Center for Behavioral Health Integration
- Drug Policy Alliance
- DynamiCare Health
- Faces and Voices of Recovery
- Faith in Harm Reduction
- Legal Action Center (LAC)
- National Association for Behavioral Healthcare (NABH)
- National Council on Mental Wellbeing
- ReVIDA Recovery Centers
- Shatterproof
- Treatment Communities of America
- Young People in Recovery

## SIGNING AS INDIVIDUALS

- Zachary Adams PhD HSPP, Clinical and Research Psychologist
- Bryan Bass-Riley LPC, Program Manager, SUD Treatment and Recovery Services
- Kathleen T Brady MD PhD, Distinguished University Professor, Medical University of South Carolina
- JK Costello MD MPH, Director of Behavioral Health Consulting, The Steadman Group
- Anthony DeFulio PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology, Western Michigan University
- Diann Gaalema PhD, Associate Director of Research, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch
- Roberta Garson Leis MPA MEd, Former Executive Director, New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals
- Jay A. Gorman PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Research Psychologist, Boston University School of Medicine
- Mark K. Greenwald PhD, Gertrude Levin Endowed Chair in Addiction and Pain Biology, Professor, Director, Substance Addiction Research Division, Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, Wayne State University School of Medicine
- Von Grubbs PsyD, Clinical Psychologist
- Nzinga Harrison MD DFAPA FABPM, Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer, Eleanor Health
- Angela M. Heads PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Stephen T. Higgins PhD, Director, Vermont Center on Behavior and Health, University Distinguished Professor, Virginia H. Donaldson Professor in Translational Science, Departments of Psychiatry and Psychological Science, University of Vermont
- Kevin Hyer Esq., CEO, The Hyer Calling Foundation
- Allison N. Kurti PhD, Scientific Review Officer, National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review
- William McColl, Chair, Harm Reduction Working Group

- James R. McKay PhD, Professor, University of Pennsylvania
- Kelly R. Peck PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Vermont Center on Behavior and Health, Director of Clinical Operations, Center on Rural Addiction, University of Vermont
- Jamie Pyo MS LPC, Clinical Manager, Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
- Andrew J. Saxon MD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine, (Without Compensation Employee) Center of Excellence in Substance Addiction Treatment and Education, VA Puget Sound Health Care System
- Mary Beth O'Connor, Board Member, LifeRing Secular Recovery, Board Member, She Recovers Foundation
- Jessica Stephen Premo PhD LMFT LAC, Intermountain Health
- Richard N. Rosenthal MD, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Addiction Psychiatry, Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University
- Joy M. Schmitz PhD, Professor and Faillace Chair, Director, Center for Neurobehavioral Research on Addiction, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Shuchin Shukla MD MPH
- Sandra A. Springer MD, Professor of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases, Yale AIDS Program, Yale School of Medicine
- Nehal P. Vadhan PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology, Hofstra University
- Sarah Wattenberg LCSW-C
- Jin H. Yoon PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Jessica Young MD MPH, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Judge Robert Ziemian, Massachusetts District Court (retired), and President, New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals
- Beatrice Zovich, Public Health Program Manager
- Ariel Zucker PhD, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California Santa Cruz