

# ASAM Day on the Hill: A Medical Student Perspective

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# Objectives

- Represented Team New York (Representatives for Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Engel, Congressman Faso, Congressman Tonko, Congressman Suozzi, Congressman Rice)
- Big Asks: Medicaid funding, increasing mid-level provider ability to prescribe, increasing financing for fellowships
- Share our individual experiences with patients with addiction
- Relay significance of policy proposals unto congressional staff

# Congressman Faso



# Congressman Tonko



# Meeting with Kelly Clark, MD, ASAM President and Elinore McCance-Katz, MD, PhD, SAMHSA Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse



# Four Zucker SOM Students



# Reflections

- The Power of the White Coat
  - Congressmen love that photo op
- Keep your eye on the prize
  - Remain specific with your asks
- Advocacy from the front lines
  - Relationships of Congressmen/Constituents and Providers/Patients
- The importance of specific anecdotes
  - Our stories are helpful in adding a visceral impact to their policy proposals
- The expertise and influence of congressional staff
  - Medical students and congressional staff are peers. Maybe well-informed peers are more persuasive?

# Questions

- Thank you for your time today!
- Any questions?