



national association of addiction treatment providers

PRESS RELEASE

NAATP Applauds Recovery Emphasis in State of the Union Speech

Recognizing the importance of recovery is the first step to addressing this devastating disease

Lancaster, PA, February 18, 2003: The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers joins the many other voices in recognizing the bold declaration made by President Bush that treatment or addiction is effective and that recovery is possible. Mr. Scott Munson, Chair of the NAATP Board responded: "The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers is deeply impressed with the declaration made by President Bush regarding the value of addiction treatment. This declaration will go a long way in helping to elevate the response to this disease. We sincerely hope that President Bush's leadership will have an impact on legislative leaders and on the public regarding their attitudes toward addiction."

Mr. Munson also commented that, "while the initial emphasis and coverage has focused on drug addiction, we need a clear voice that recognizes alcohol as the number one drug problem in this country. The Recovery Now emphasis will gain momentum as it helps all of us to recognize the role that alcohol addiction plays in our society. The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers recognizes that during these times of very scarce resources the additional money being proposed for addiction treatment will help to alleviate some of the impacts of declining budget allocations. The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers has long been an advocate of the quality of care delivered by qualified addiction treatment providers and continues to be committed to representing addiction treatment providers who offer diverse approaches to addiction treatment, including an emphasis on spirituality but who are also universally committed to the highest quality possible through accreditation and license by appropriate state agencies.

This bold new venture by the administration is being linked to their faith based initiatives effort. NAATP continues to recognize the role of faith in the recovery process and commends organizations such as Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services who have long been committed to quality addiction treatment.

NAATP will continue its commitment to quality and accountability and would urge that any voucher system developed is one that is available to any and all programs that are accredited by a national accrediting organization and are licensed by the appropriate state agency to ensure that they are subject to quality assurance, and regularly



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accountable by the state. Utilizing such organizations will ensure that the highest standards of quality are followed and that the dollars invested in treatment are utilized through organizations committed to quality treatment for this chronic disease.

The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers further supports the voucher system for those organizations that will work toward accountability of treatment. We believe that this chronic disease must be addressed in the same way that other chronic diseases are approached, and any outcome results need to be based on the overall health and social improvement of the individual receiving treatment.

The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) is a national organization representing over 220 organizations engaged in delivering quality addiction treatment, research on the impact of treatment and education of its members.