

# NATIONAL ACUPUNCTURE DETOXIFICATION ASSOCIATION

February 6, 2018

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To the honorable members of the Senate and House Health committees: Rep. Townsend, Rep. Donahue and Rep. Ayer,

As we wrote in our previous letter to the committee regards H.684, the current legislative trend is for more and more states to introduce bills bringing NADA practice into their state. In the last two years, Connecticut (2016) and Delaware (2017) expanded their statutes so that practitioners working in many different kinds of settings can help their clients with the NADA protocol.

We are bringing to your attention the statute changes in both states because they set a precedent for what can happen in Vermont. In Connecticut, the following language was added to the existing definition of setting: “(3) any other setting where such protocol is an appropriate adjunct therapy to a substance abuse or behavioral health treatment program.”

In Delaware, the statute maintained the scope for NADA services, but removed mention of mandatory settings, which had included “state, federal, or board approved alcohol, substance abuse, or chemical dependency program or other Council and Board approved healthcare setting.”

Now clients in CT and DE programs such as a domestic violence shelters, a community mental health clinic and veterans at a local VFW are eligible to receive a NADA treatment by an eligible provider. Trauma, untreated mental health issues and addiction may be part of many of their lives, and the NADA protocol offers an affordable and non-addictive stepping stone to recovery.

The NADA protocol is designed as a tool to bring people in, to stabilize them and connect them with other services. Program retention is one of the most highly repeated outcomes in research studies about the NADA protocol. Retention is also shown by research to help people attain greater rates of success in recovery, either from addiction or other mental health imbalances.

We urge the committee to safeguard this treatment for Vermont residents, and improve the language so that it can be easily implemented. Our communities need the NADA protocol to be widely available so that clients can utilize this simple and safe tool to help themselves move forward in their healing process.

Feel free to contact our office with any questions or consultation – (888) 765-6232, [nadaoffice@acudetox.com](mailto:nadaoffice@acudetox.com).

Respectfully,

Sara Bursac, LCSW  
NADA Executive Director