

Mr. Beto: Thank you very much. Your letter will be shared with the full House Government Operations Committee. It will also be posted on our web page and entered into the record. Best regards, Maida F. Townsend, Chair, House Government Operations

From: Travis Beto <opencommunityacupuncture@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2018 2:56 PM
To: Maida Townsend; Anne Donahue; Claire Ayer
Subject: HB 684

To Rep. Townsend, Rep. Donahue, Sen. Ayer,

It has come to my attention there is a possibility of striking down Vermont's law pertaining to the application of the NADA protocol. I'm writing this letter, as a Vermont licensed acupuncturist, to provide emphatic support for the NADA protocol and its use in Vermont.

Its safety should not be in question. Where ever one can find its use throughout the United States, safety has never been an issue. You would be hard pressed to find malpractice or claims of damage anywhere. This includes the verifiable absence of these type of complaints in Vermont. Let's be clear: those having completed the certification process to perform the NADA protocol (5 points in one ear) have more certified training in practicing the protocol than diabetic children who give themselves insulin shots, or people who use 18 gauge (or larger) needles to pierce various body parts for their client's aesthetic desires - both much more precarious needling practices. As evidence shows, safety is a minuscule risk to consider when continuing to allow the NADA protocol to be practiced under the current law. Furthermore, safely needling 5 points in the ear should not be confused with safety issues that arise from practicing full blown acupuncture.

A quick look at how NADA is implemented throughout other states in the US will show how, instead of repealing this law, a state like Vermont, with its particular list of public health concerns, should be in fact expanding access to the NADA protocol - not visa versa.

Also, the Vermont Acupuncture Association has a very clear position paper in support of NADA and its mission (attached). It has been standing since 2016.

On a more personal note, I am currently seeking to gain my certification in the NADA protocol. This is professionally unnecessary for me due to my standing as a licensed acupuncturist. I already use the protocol everyday that I am in clinic. However, through my contacts I have met front line addiction workers

very excited to be able to add NADA to their tool kits. As the law is currently written I'm their only chance to be able to provide this service to their clientele; a clientele that is not likely to be walking into an acupuncturist's office any time soon. The repealing of this law - as narrow as it is - is removing the possibility of NADA being that one thing that kept an addict from overdosing.

Repealing HB 684 or letting it lapse without renewing or expanding NADA access is a mistake.

Sincerely,
Travis Beto L.Ac

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