

For posting under H.684, re auricular acupuncture.

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**From:** Laura Cooley <[laura@acuaid.net](mailto:laura@acuaid.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 9:21 AM  
**To:** Maida Townsend  
**Subject:** I got your message re HB 864

Thank you so much for responding to my plea Rep. Townsend. I have indeed scheduled to testify on Friday. This situation is complicated and has a long history. Assertions have been made by the Licensing board that beg the question "what exactly is going on here and exactly why has this conclusion been drawn?"

I am in agreement that the law is not a good one, but lets insert a better one. After 15 years of this law, exactly 7 people are doing it for a couple hours a week. The inability of practitioners to perform this service is largely due to the restrictive nature the poorly written law (not in keeping with there recommendations of our national organization that provides the training) and the handling of these certificate holders by OPR. Larry Novins was originally the lawyer for OPR's acupuncture board and he was extremely supportive. I maintained an excellent relationship with him for the duration of his employment at OPR, as we consulted with each other on various issues. After my work in Katrina, Larry and I set up a quick registration process for out-of-staters to come into Vermont during an emergency and be able to assist without a lot of red tape and prohibiting requirements to register with the state during declared crisis..

Looking forward to it,

Laura Cooley

PS two years ago I came to the statehouse 6 weeks in a row and treated legislators with the very technique OPR wants to eliminate. Furthermore, trainees in this method came on the last day, when we offered txs to the entire legislature by the very people OPR wants to eliminate from practicing, We brought various herbal teas, ear acupuncture and treated about 60 people according to Dr Deb Richter's counting. Dr Richter is one of the trainees, but she need not be supervised as she is a physician and is not personally impacted by this decision, other than she cannot train her addiction treatment staff at eh Howard Center now.