

To: Denise Diehl, Committee Assistant, House Government Operations

I am writing as an active Supervisor for ADTs in the State of Vermont since 2012, having taken over this position from licensed Vermont acupuncturist Edward Kentish. During this five-year period I have had only meaningful and professional encounters with ADTs, offering assistance and support as needed with periodic site visits as required including sites such as Maple Leaf Farm (when the program was in place there) and the Turning Point Center in Burlington. Alongside my private acupuncture practice, I have also been working to broaden the accessibility of Acudetox in our community. This increase in accessibility has included offering a weekly Acudetox group with the mental health agency in Middlebury (Counseling Service of Addison County) going into its fourth year as well as current efforts to integrate Acudetox into the Medication Assisted Treatment program at the Federally Qualified Health Center in Bristol - Mountain Health Center - where I am a part-time provider.

To me, it is an alarmist position being taken to dismantle the small yet critical ADT program in Vermont that functions to bring an essential component of affordable holistic medicine to people struggling with substance use, especially at this point in time when we are seeking new ways to support these members of our community. In my experience as a NADA-trained ADT Supervisor and deliverer of the Acudetox protocol, this clientele benefits tremendously from Acudetox and many would not be served if not for the ADTs sharing their skill and resources.

I understand there have been concerns regarding acceptable criteria for supervision, however I have never been contacted directly about these concerns in order to have my experience integrated into a plan to remedy the situation. Therefore, I am writing today to voice my interest and assurance in the continued safety and efficacy of the ADT program in Vermont by simply reworking the current law right now rather than dismantling the current law in its entirety. I am willing to participate with OPR to remove the restrictions that are causing difficulty and usher in a reformed bill that is in alignment with the position of the Vermont Acupuncture Association.

Sincerely,

K. Rachel Edwards, M.S., L.Ac.
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