

Hi, Anne. There is indeed change being considered via H.684, this session's OPR bill. The issue is the practice of auricular acupuncture in the context of substance abuse treatment. We have heard a great deal of testimony and have also received a great deal of testimony in writing. We are taking it all, both sides of the "argument," very seriously... ranging from testimony that there is no science at all behind this treatment to testimony that it is an extraordinarily effective treatment. In any case, we are not taking up the bill again until February 20. I imagine between now and then HGO will continue to be swamped by emails. I will keep you in the loop in terms of our decisions. Thanks for checking in. Best, Maida

From: Anne Donahue
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 5:01 PM
To: Maida Townsend
Subject: accupuncture

Hello Maida,
I'm not sure why (my memory for exact history is bad), but I am being looped in by a number of very concerned acupuncturists about the proposed OPR change regarding treatment of substance use disorder. I understand that there were abuses of the new policy that resulted in the request by OPR to terminate the program apart from grandfathering existing practitioners, but it seems as though there might be some better options that would reduce abuse without terminating access. I've heard some pretty compelling concerns, and hope you could get some testimony on it prior to a decision, if indeed a change is being considered.
Thanks,
Anne