

To: Senate Government Operations Committee

From: Rachel Edwards, M.S., L.Ac.
72 Cold Spring Road
Lincoln, Vermont 05443

Date: April 11, 2018

Re: Bill H.684 and Repeal of ADT Program

My name is Rachel Edwards and I am a licensed acupuncturist specializing in addiction and one of the three Supervisors for Acudetox Technicians in Vermont. During my 15 years as a practitioner, I have been involved in the grassroots movement to integrate acupuncture and other non-pharmaceutical therapies into our healthcare system, especially devoted to Acudetox and the role it can play in meeting the complex health needs of those suffering from acute addiction and throughout all phases of recovery.

In addition to my private practice, two years ago I became a provider at Mountain Health Center - the FQHC in Bristol - where I offer both Acudetox and body acupuncture to patients including patients in the MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) program which started up last fall. I also lead an Acudetox group with the Counseling Service of Addison County in Middlebury every Tuesday afternoon, going into its fifth year this season.

In just the past week I received two inquiries from the Turning Point Centers in Middlebury and Rutland - both Centers interested in offering Acudetox as part of their programming. This is evidence of the growing interest in Acudetox and importance of our State continuing to allow a variety of personnel (including drug and alcohol counselors, recovery center para professionals) to be trained to offer Acudetox in the settings where people need it the most.

This is not the time to limit the delivery of this extremely affordable and effective therapy. On the contrary, now is the time to grow this program and determine the necessary and appropriate levels of supervision to continue its safety, efficacy and accessibility for the sake of so many people who need our help.

I look forward to continuing to dedicate my time and energy to this collaborative process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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