

The ACLU fully supports H. 162. It is absolutely critical to ensure that people are not being punished for their efforts to treat their substance use disorder. Non-prescribed buprenorphine can help people with SUD treat their addiction, and studies show that patients who enter supervised treatment with prior non-prescribed buprenorphine use have significantly higher odds of remaining in treatment than those who had never before used the medication.¹ This committee has dedicated itself to seeing drug use, and substance use disorder, as public health concerns, rather than opportunities to prosecute those who use drugs. The committee and the legislature should ignore the fear-mongering from various parties and continue its commitment to crafting public health solutions to this crisis by supporting this bill.



PO Box 277
Montpelier, VT 05601
(802) 223-6304
acluvt.org

Julie Kalish
President

James Lyall
Executive Director

¹ Laura B. Monico, et al., *Prior Experience with Non-Prescribed Buprenorphine: Role in Treatment Entry and Retention*, 57 J. OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (2015), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740547215001099>.