

As an individual who is in recovery from substance abuse I can attest to the miraculous change I have seen in some of my peers due to the administration of suboxone/buprenorphine. To make things clear, I have not personally, now or ever, used suboxone in my recovery. I tried, but the waiting list was far too long for one in the grip of addiction such as I once was, and by not being able to receive the help I needed at the time my criminal actions led to my unfortunate incarceration, and I can honestly say it was probably well-deserved. I can, however, also say with utmost certainty that not only has this prescription helped people to get clean but I have no doubt in my mind that it has helped people to salvage the wreckage of their lives and move forward to realize that potentiality that addiction had otherwise stripped from them. Unfortunately, I have seen many of my good friends afflicted by this scourge struggle to obtain suboxone through the more conventional channels. A waiting list at a clinic can take weeks until you finally see a doctor able to write a prescription, and the grim truth is that some of these people seeking aid simply do not have weeks to wait. Opiate addiction is a brutal and remorseless thing, and it doesn't sit back and wait for a person to get help. More often than not, the only viable option for a person who is this desperate is to turn to the street so they can obtain the very thing that will potentially save their life. I have seen this happen numerous times, and I continue to see it. For this reason, as a concerned citizen, I am asking that VCJR and the great State Of Vermont take these facts into consideration concerning H.162 and allow the the possession of buprenorphine/suboxone to be removed from being a misdemeanor crime statewide. Taking these measures I believe could save numerous lives and over time usher many more down the path of recovery. This is important to me and many others like me, as well as our families and loved ones. Say YES to H.162.

Thank you.

-Samuel Wormer