

Memorandum:

TO: Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Bozena M. Padykula, EdD, APRN, PMHNP-BC, APHN-BC,
NADA Acudetox Specialist

DATE: March 7, 2016

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 353

Good Afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Bozena Padykula and I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE.

I am a psychiatric and holistic nurse practitioner working at Community Mental Health/Child Guidance Clinic, and I am assistant professor faculty at WCSU School of Nursing. I have been a NADA Acudetox Specialist (ADS) for a year supporting research based, non-pharmacological adjunctive therapy for use to support clients and students with stress and addiction related conditions. Specifically, Acudetox has been proven safe and effective in recovery from opioid dependence, since this original purpose the role of Acudetox has expanded to other mental health support services with well documented success. NADA Acudetox protocol has been provided to individuals and groups to aid recovery after disasters such as hurricanes, for sleep disorders and anxiety and on college campuses and post-traumatic stress to name just a few.

The current acudetox law (NADA protocol auricular acupuncture in CT state licensed substance abuse facilities) is restrictive and needs to be updated due to the overwhelming growth of substance abuse and behavioral health issues in recent years. The National Acudetox Association (NADA) protocol can benefit all of our at risk populations. I support this change so that people suffering from addictions and behavioral health issues can receive inexpensive acudetox wherever they are.

I am in support of section 2h of Senate Bill 353. I am respectfully requesting that the current acupuncture detox law be clarified and expanded to assure that the NADA protocol can benefit all our at-risk populations. Currently in CT, despite my professional credentials and training, I only place magnetic seeds using the NADA protocol because of the limitations of the current law. CT lead the way with the original legislation and I am asking you do the same again by requesting to allow NADA-trained, licensed and/or certified health care providers : RN, APRN, PA, Licensed Addiction Counselors, Family therapists and Social Workers to use the NADA protocol in their independent private practices without supervision. In addition, it is our proposal that a NADA registered trainer may provide indirect supervision to non-licensed ADS performing community auricular acupuncture. The expansion of the current restrictions of an outdated law is essential. The current opioid crisis and rise stress related disorders can benefit from expansion of Acudetox services to a variety of settings.

Thank you for examining this very important issue helping to expand the use of Acudetox to our much needed mental health services and community supports in CT.

Respectfully Submitted

Bozena M. Padykula,
EdD, APRN, PMHNP-BC, APHN-BC, NADA Acudetox Specialist