

Memorandum:

TO: Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Karina Montoya, NS

DATE: March 12, 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 Karina Montoya, and I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE.

As a nursing student and an active participant in my community, I have seen how the concerning opioid abuse in our area is affecting the lives of many, in a devastating way. I find it to be not only my pleasure, but my duty, to advocate for those individuals in crisis and come together to find a solution. I am writing in support of this Bill, and would like greater access to the underserved to be offered alternative options for relapse prevention as well as increased engagement in treatment.

We are proposing to expand and clarify our existing practice law to more effectively serve the population at risk.

The **National Acupuncture Detox Association (NADA)** ear acupuncture protocol is a safe, inexpensive public health process that can assist those in need. The current law is restrictive since it can only be performed in a state licensed substance abuse facility.

By expanding the law, NADA trained independent licensed clinicians may provide the NADA protocol without restriction of setting or supervision.

We are also proposing to allow a non-licensed NADA trained practitioner to perform community acudetox under the indirect supervision an MD, acupuncturist, or a NADA trainer. Many vulnerable populations suffer from conditions beyond substance abuse and benefits of the NADA protocol have been substantiated through research. The NADA protocol can benefit all our at risk populations and be an effective tool in recovery.

Promoting Wellness is one of our functions as clinicians and this modality does that on so many levels.

Thank you for your time, and for your consideration on this review.

Karina Montoya, Nursing Student
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