

March 10, 2016

Re: SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee.

I am hereby submitting written testimony opposing SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE.

I am a licensed acupuncturist and a member of The CT Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. (CSAOM) I have been in private practice since 2003 in two locations - Westport and Bethel, CT. I also served on the Core Faculty of Tri-State College of Acupuncture in New York City from 2003-2008. I am submitting testimony on behalf of other Licensed Acupuncturists and myself regarding the importance of licensure in acupuncture when it comes to auricular acupuncture treatments.

We are opposed to the language in SB 353 which removes the requirements for acupuncture detox specialists (ADS) to perform their specialized “auricular acupuncture” treatments only in settings licensed by the DPH or operated by the DPH for the care and treatment of substance abuse, under the supervision of a physician (CGS Chapter 384c, section 20-206bb(4)(h)) and open that practice of “auricular acupuncture” by certified ADS’ to any private practice setting.

The licensed Acupuncturists of our organization, many of who are also certified by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) and credentialed as certified ADS, have serious concerns about any such legislative proposal and oppose it. Karen Borla, president of CSAOM has spoken to social workers and psychiatrists who are NADA trained who say they do not feel qualified to practice the protocol in a private setting. While we see the need to expand services to treat the growing epidemic of opioid addiction and abuse, and know the strong evidence that acupuncture is a valuable adjunct treatment for people trying to detox from these substances, we also know that ADS certification is a very limited professional standard. An individual with no prior medical training can become certified as a NADA auricular practitioner with a weekend course and a short practicum of supervised treatments, and is required to meet no professional re-certification or continuing education standards. Allowing these valuable, but minimally trained practitioners to perform acupuncture outside the boundaries of the licensed facilities for substance abuse treatment removes any way to oversee the safe practice of this medicine.

According to NADA’s website, during NADA treatments, groups of people sit together while undergoing the treatment. The procedure functions as an adjunct within a comprehensive treatment program that offers other therapeutic elements including counseling, education, family involvement, mutual support group involvement, and supportive medical health care.

Moving these treatments to a private practice setting clearly is outside of the intent of the NADA protocol.

Testimony: Re: Senate Bill No. 300: An Act Concerning New Britain Water Company Land
Public Health Committee Public Hearing
March 7, 2016

Good Evening Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Rebecca Karabin-Ahern and I am writing in opposition of Bill 300.

As a 3rd generation business owner of Acme Monaco and homeowner which both border Tilcon's operations, I strongly object to Bill 300. Disassembling Class I and Class II lands is setting a very bad precedent for Connecticut.

I did attend both public hearings in New Britain and in Plainville. The Plainville hearing was nearly 100% against this deal and in New Britain less than 50% in attendance were in favor. Residents in both communities are educated enough to realize the negative environmental impact. What happens to the threatened species, vernal pools and critical habitats? No one has been able to answer this.

Lastly, the Tilcon operation is about 800 feet from my facility. We have put in significant investments into our company including a \$1Million dollar cleanroom. We have 120 employees in Connecticut and a total of over 200 employees worldwide. We are consistently be courted to relocate to another state or even another city. I have to say that we have to give this serious consideration because the levels of dust clogging our HEPA filters, 101 documented cracks in our foundation and the collapsing masonry wall make it difficult to ignore.

Please do not put this Bill 300 forward. It is hurtful to our environment and only financially benefits a company whose world headquarters is Ireland.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Karabin-Ahern