

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401



The Maryland
Acupuncture
Society, Inc.

January 21, 2021

**Re: SB 279 – FAVORABLE – PUBLIC HEALTH – OVERDOSE AND
INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION SERVICES PROGRAM**

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Maryland Acupuncture Society (“MAS”) as our support of Senate Bill 279 – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program. MAS represents over 1000 licensed practitioners throughout the State of Maryland and we are in strong support of this bill.

Senate Bill 279 would help with the ongoing problem of drug addiction and overdoses in the State of Maryland. As a profession, acupuncturists are dedicated to the fight against drug addiction. Acupuncturists are trained detoxification specialists through the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association. Acupuncture is also an integral part of the National Capitol Region Pain Initiative, which is currently being implemented at Walter Reed.

This bill would provide acupuncturists from across the state the opportunity to expand their client base to communities that need them most. These treatment centers would also direct patients to our beneficial services which they might not have found without these community centers. Our practices of tai chi, NADA protocol, and non-opioid pain management techniques would have a direct and positive impact on patients in these facilities. For the reasons stated above we **SUPPORT** SB 279 – Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention Services Program. Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Denise Tyson
President
Maryland Acupuncture Society