

**Please sign A2023-A / S.6666**

**ACUPUNCTURE BEFORE OPIOIDS**

Let NYS Licensed Acupuncturists HELP!

"A number of studies have found acupuncture to be more effective than either no or simulated acupuncture for back, neck and knee pain." Reference: [https://nccih.nih.gov/sites/nccam.nih.gov/files/Acupuncture\\_11-10-2015.pdf](https://nccih.nih.gov/sites/nccam.nih.gov/files/Acupuncture_11-10-2015.pdf)

"Acupuncture [is] superior to both sham and no-acupuncture control for [back and neck pain, osteoarthritis, chronic headache, and shoulder pain]." Reference: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1357513>

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**The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am one of almost 5,000 Licensed Acupuncturists in New York State. Every day I see evidence of the opioid crisis amongst my patients. I commend your efforts to fight this epidemic and urge you to continue finding new ways to do so.

Signing this bill is one more way to help end this crisis. A.2023-A / S.6666 dramatically improves access to Acupuncture - an effective, non-drug pain treatment - through New York's Workers' Compensation System. The best way to help people avoid addiction to painkillers is to keep them off drugs in the first place, and acupuncture can help. In August 2017, The Joint Commission, an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, recommended in its R3 Report that hospitals consider non-pharmacologic modalities as a complementary approach for pain management that may reduce the need for opioid medications. Acupuncture is one such modality and Licensed Acupuncturists are the most qualified professionals to perform this therapy.

My colleagues and I work diligently to develop strong, compassionate relationships with our patients to provide well-informed care that reduces pain and improves overall wellness. However, a legal loophole and misinformation about cost has continued to keep Licensed Acupuncturists out of NYS Workers' Compensation System in a clearly discriminatory fashion. I urge you to sign this bill to finally allow myself and other NYS Licensed Acupuncturists - expert pain and addiction management professionals - to fully join the fight against opioid addiction.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

## Acupuncture: A Key in the Fight Against the Opioid Epidemic



Over 99,000 established workers' compensation claims and 313,223 reopened claims in 2017.

Who can safely and effectively treat pain for these workers without addictive painkillers?

A NYS Licensed Acupuncturist **CAN!**



In 2015 over 2,100 New Yorkers died due to opioid-use related causes.

Who can help prevent these deaths by providing a safe, effective relief for pain and addiction with no negative side-effects?

A NYS Licensed Acupuncturist **CAN!**



In 2016, over 66,000 New Yorkers were admitted for opioid chemical dependence treatment programs.

Who can help people successfully overcome their addiction & reduce withdrawal symptoms while providing pain relief?

A NYS Licensed Acupuncturist **CAN!**

### The Math is Simple



Access to Acupuncture

=



✓pain ✓painkillers  
✓painkiller addictions  
✓Emergency services  
✓loss of time on job, and...  
↓ \$\$\$ COST

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