



**SANDPIPERMD**  
*A Healthy Mind is a Healthy Body*

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House of Representatives

Joint Public Hearing on DUI/Drugged Driving

Ronald S. Marisco, Majority Chairman

House Judiciary Committee

- Discoveries of the neurobiology of addiction clearly identify substance use disorders as a brain disease/medical illness
- There are very good medical treatments available for addiction which are underutilized.
- There is absolutely a public safety concern regarding operators of motor vehicles while impaired.
- The punishment for jeopardizing public safety must include the usual approach of license suspension and possibly prison time or other typical penalties based on the circumstances.
- In addition to protecting the public, we have an obligation to rehabilitate the offender; however, addiction is a medical disorder and therefore requires medical treatment.
- If a licensed driver has a seizure disorder, they must demonstrate stability from those seizures for a period of time in order to reinstate their driving privileges. In my opinion it should not be any different for a substance use disorder.
- Demonstration of stability can be through confirmed periods of abstinence through urine or saliva testing.
- Evidence based medication assisted treatments should be made available to these individuals such as long-acting injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol, FDA approved for BOTH Alcohol Use Disorder AND Opiate Use Disorder) and BRENDA model approaches to recovery with licensed therapists trained in evidence based psychotherapy such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) which have demonstrated success.
- 12-step/peer support models have had limited success in achieving sustained results and lack a scientific basis for their approach and yet they are the "standard" models for recovery.
- It is my opinion that quality treatment would be a superior form of rehabilitation as compared to prison time for someone with addiction.
- If jail/prison time is necessary, consideration for early release through mandated treatment, perhaps even with agreement to long-acting injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol) should be given.
- Naltrexone is a non-narcotic opiate antagonist (blocker) which means that it will block the effects of opiates and to some extent alcohol.