

Submitter: Sonya Gregg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2143

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Sonya Gregg. I am a lifelong Oregonian and the co-Director of the only accredited school for community acupuncturists, POCA Technical Institute, located in the Cully neighborhood of Portland.

Our school's goal is to recruit and train students to provide acupuncture to underserved communities. Over the last ten years we've learned how difficult it is for us, or anyone, to fill the need for low-barrier services in Oregon; we simply don't have the capacity to train enough licensed acupuncturists to address the opioid epidemic.

5NP is a safe, low-cost intervention that's recognized by SAMSHA, the Indian Health Service, the VA, and the Alliance of Addiction Solutions. Training community members like recovery mentors and traditional health workers to provide 5NP will make acupuncture accessible to communities that licensed acupuncturists can't reach.

I sincerely encourage you to vote in favor of HB 2143.

Thank you.