

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

Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

House Bill 2143 requires my strong support because it aims to establish rules for the "five-needle protocol" treatment of substance use disorder symptoms alongside mental health conditions/trauma. The bill represents a meaningful advancement that broadens patient access to proven alternative and complementary therapies which help improve medical results. Acupuncture or the five-needle protocol uses sterile disposable needles. The five-needle protocol has received broad recognition because it effectively provides short-term symptom relief for conditions related to substance use disorder as well as mental health/trauma. The shen men, sympathetic, liver, kidney, and lung points targeted by this protocol produce calming/balancing effects on the body's energy channels while enhancing overall health.

Through House Bill 2143 trained individuals from organizations like the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association or the People's Organization of Community Acupuncture can administer the five-needle protocol without needing an official acupuncture license. This provision proves essential for expanding healthcare access in underserved/rural areas where licensed acupuncturists remain scarce. The availability of this safe and effective treatment by trained people will help meet the increasing demand for alternative therapies for treating substance use disorders/mental health conditions. This bill mandates important safeguards to make sure that people administering the five-needle protocol adhere to safe procedures and use sterile materials. The law prevents unlicensed people from falsely identifying themselves as acupuncturists thereby protecting the professional standards within the acupuncture practice field but expand the application to allowing acupuncture students, naturopathic doctors, mental health professionals, and other healthcare professionals to provide treatment. These actions expand healthcare access while guaranteeing high-quality, safe patient treatment.

House Bill 2143 supports public health initiatives through its provision of a low-risk, non-medication-based method for treating conditions that substantially affect community health. Public health must tackle the opioid epidemic alongside rising mental health disorder rates and trauma consequences with unique, varied strategies. The five-needle protocol stands as a valuable public health resource by providing alternative support to people who either lack access to traditional medical treatments or choose not to use them. I implore your support for House Bill 2143 because it embodies an innovative healthcare strategy which ensures community

safety while expanding access to health services. This bill provides an opportunity to make significant progress in enhancing the lives of people throughout our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,