



To: The House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Oregon Heals Coalition

Date: January 30, 2025

Re: In Support of House Bill 2143

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the committee,

Oregon's behavioral health needs have been exacerbated since the start of COVID in early 2020, and has been declining well before then. In many categories, Oregon has greater behavioral health needs than the national average.¹ The current mental health system is not adequately serving our communities, especially Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) who have the least access and often face the most stigma when trying to find care.

The Oregon Heals Coalition envisions a robust mental health system that is equitable, affordable, culturally responsive, community-centered, community-driven, and adequately serves those who have historically experienced the least access.

¹ "Mental Health in Oregon",
<https://www.kff.org/statedata/mental-health-and-substance-use-state-fact-sheets/oregon/>



This year, the Oregon Heals Coalition built our 2025 Legislative Agenda in partnership with community. To do so, we recruited 5 Mental Health Champions with backgrounds in the mental health field and determined HB 2143 would gain our support as one of our priorities.

The Five-Needle Protocol (5NP) or "acudetox," is safe, cost-effective, and easy to train. There are no contraindications, and the benefits include relief from stress and emotional trauma, relief from symptoms of addiction (cravings), relief from symptoms of withdrawal, and more. This treatment was developed as a community-based response to the heroin crisis in the Bronx, and remains an effective treatment for substance abuse and trauma, including providing relief for 9/11 first responders and survivors – proving its effectiveness in providing aid to serious mental health issues.

5NP is accessible to all – people of color who have been disenfranchised or stigmatized by our medical system, people who have experienced high levels of trauma, people who struggle with anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and people with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Currently Oregon has no legislation regarding the Five-Needle Protocol. House Bill 2143 would allow anyone to receive training, and exempts individuals who complete NADA or POCA training from acupuncturist regulatory requirements, provided they only use the five ear points central to NADA and POCA training. Since no new regulatory structure is created, the cost of this legislation to Oregon taxpayers will be negligible.



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COALITION

Please join us in supporting legislation that positively impacts Black, Indigenous, and other Oregonians of color. **Oregon Heals strongly urges your “YES” vote on HB 2143.**

Sincerely,

The Oregon Heals Coalition

