

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

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Briggs, and I have been a licensed acupuncturist in Oregon for 18 years, with 24 years of experience in the field. I appreciate the intent of HB 2143 to expand access to the Five-Needle Protocol (5NP), an effective and time-honored tool for individuals in crisis, including those experiencing addiction and trauma. However, I have concerns regarding the bill's current language and its potential impact on patient safety and regulatory oversight.

This bill places 5NP practitioners under the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) but does not grant OMB rulemaking authority. Without this authority, the Board lacks a key mechanism to set standards, respond to public concerns, or adapt regulations as needed. This could lead to inconsistencies in practice and enforcement.

Second, the bill does not sufficiently define education and training standards beyond certification through specific organizations. While NADA and POCA Tech currently uphold adequate safety standards, there is no safeguard ensuring these requirements remain stringent in the future. If training standards were to be lowered, the state would have no recourse to prevent under qualified practitioners from performing this technique.

As a licensed acupuncturist, I am deeply committed to patient safety. Using needles on a client or patient involves real risks, including structural damage to the area being treated, infection, and potential adverse reactions such as needle shock. Practitioners must be properly trained to recognize and manage these risks. Without clearer regulatory guidelines and education standards, this bill could unintentionally compromise patient care.

I urge the committee to amend HB2143 to address these concerns before moving it forward. Thank you for your time and dedication to public health. I welcome any questions you may have.