

Submitter: Amber Reding-Gazzini
On Behalf Of: Oregon Association of Acupuncturists
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2143

Public Testimony on HB 2143

Healthcare and Behavioral Health Committee

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amber Reding, and I am President of the Oregon Association of Acupuncturists. OAA understands the intent of HB 2143 to expand access to the Five-Needle Protocol (5NP), a time-tested and effective tool for individuals facing addiction and trauma. However, we on the Board of OAA have some concerns about the bill's current language, particularly regarding regulatory oversight, education standards, and the need for greater specificity in defining the 5NP itself.

This bill does not clearly define the specific acupuncture points used in the 5NP. Given that 5NP involves the insertion of needles into the body, specificity in the bill's language is essential to prevent misinterpretation or unauthorized modifications to the protocol. Including a precise definition of the five points will help ensure that practitioners adhere to the established safety and efficacy of the technique.

HB 2143 does not sufficiently define education and training requirements beyond certification through the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) or the People's Organization of Community Acupuncture (POCA Tech). While these organizations currently maintain training for safety standards, there is no safeguard ensuring they will continue to do so in the future. Without minimum education requirements written into the bill, the state would be obligated to recognize certification even if standards were later weakened. This presents a patient safety risk.

The current draft assigns oversight of 5NP practitioners to the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) but does not grant OMB rulemaking authority. Without this authority, the Board lacks the ability to establish clear standards, adapt to new information, or address public concerns—potentially leading to gaps in safety and enforcement. Oregon Association of Acupuncturists understands the benefit of community-based treatments like 5NP. However, ensuring proper regulatory oversight, education standards, and a clear definition of the protocol itself is critical to maintaining patient safety. I urge the committee to amend HB 2143 to address these concerns before advancing it.

Thank you for your time and commitment to public health. I welcome any questions.

Amber Reding

President, Oregon Association of Acupuncturists

president@oregonacupuncturists.com