

Submitter: Melissa Poulin

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.

I am a licensed acupuncturist and graduate of POCA Technical Institute (PTI), and I am writing to express my wholehearted support of HB 2143. As part of my clinical internship, I had the privilege of treating patients at CODA, an addiction treatment center, using the 5 Needle Protocol (5NP). Its impact for addiction treatment is impossible to overstate. It's simple, it's safe, and it works.

PTI students spend several weeks during our clinical internship treating patients in our general clinics using only auricular acupuncture. The ear as a microcosm of the body has been used to treat the whole body for thousands of years, and yet auricular acupuncture is sometimes underestimated. In clinic, the effectiveness of ear-only treatments often surprises both patient and practitioner.

5NP is safe, easy to learn, and flexible enough to practice in many different settings. For all of these reasons, I support HB2143 and the expansion of training opportunities for more people to practice this protocol, thereby increasing the reach of this important treatment and making it accessible to those who need it most. 5NP would be a welcome supportive addition to a wide range of medical, community health, and therapeutic environments, as well as a strong stand-alone service in both clinical and non-clinical settings.

Sincerely,
Melissa Poulin