



To: The Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Oregon Heals Coalition

Date: April 22, 2025

Re: In Support of House Bill 2143

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Miranda Miller and I'm the Coalition Manager of the Oregon Heals Coalition. The Oregon Heals Coalition is a statewide policy and advocacy coalition led by APANO, PCUN and Family Forward Oregon.

We formed this statewide mental health policy and advocacy coalition in 2021, following the beginning of a health-related pandemic that included a mental health crisis felt disproportionately by youth, caregivers, and communities of color.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Oregon's behavioral health needs have intensified, revealing a longstanding issue that predates the pandemic. In fact, in many areas, Oregon's behavioral health challenges surpass the national average.

Our current mental health system is not meeting the needs of our communities, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), who face the greatest barriers to access and often encounter stigma when seeking care.

The Oregon Heals Coalition envisions a mental health system that is equitable, affordable, culturally responsive, and, most importantly, community-centered. We aim to create a system that fully serves those who have historically been denied access to care.

In developing our 2025 Legislative Agenda, the Oregon Heals Coalition worked closely with community partners. We enlisted a group of mental health champions, each with experience in the mental health field, to help us prioritize the initiatives that would have the greatest impact. One such priority is House Bill 2143, which supports the Five-Needle Protocol (5NP), also known as "acu-detox."

The Five-Needle Protocol is a safe, cost-effective, and easy-to-learn treatment. It has no contraindications, and its benefits include relief from stress, emotional trauma, and addiction symptoms such as cravings and withdrawal. Originally developed as a community-based response to the heroin crisis in the Bronx, 5NP has proven to be an effective treatment for substance abuse, trauma, and even provided aid to 9/11 first responders and survivors.

5NP is particularly valuable for marginalized communities—people of color who have historically been underserved and stigmatized by the medical system, individuals who have experienced significant trauma, and those struggling with anxiety, depression, or substance abuse. Its accessibility and proven effectiveness make it an essential tool for improving mental health care in Oregon.

House Bill 2143 would allow individuals to receive training in the protocol and would exempt those who complete NADA or POCA training from

acupuncturist regulatory requirements, as long as they only use the five ear points central to the NADA and POCA methods. The amendment adopted in House Behavioral Health Care requires the Oregon Medical Board to compile and upkeep a registry of those qualified to offer this type of care.

We urge you to support legislation that will make a meaningful difference for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color in Oregon. The Oregon Heals Coalition strongly encourages your "YES" vote on HB 2143.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Oregon Heals Coalition



