

Submitter: Casey McCullough
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Casey McCullough, and I am a licensed acupuncturist practicing in Portland, OR with eight years of clinical experience.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB3824, which proposes to allow physical therapists to engage in “needle insertion.” This bill uses vague and undefined language—“needle insertion” is not clearly specified—and such ambiguity raises serious concerns about patient safety and professional oversight.

Acupuncture involves the insertion of fine needles into precise anatomical points and is a complex intervention requiring extensive training (four years to be exact) and clinical expertise. Licensed acupuncturists complete thousands of hours of education in biomedical sciences, clean needle technique, and supervised clinical practice to ensure both efficacy and safety. In contrast, physical therapists may receive only minimal training—sometimes just a weekend course—before being permitted to perform procedures that are invasive and carry real risk.

By failing to define “needle insertion,” HB3824 creates a dangerous loophole. It would allow individuals to perform procedures that closely resemble acupuncture without meeting the standards required of licensed acupuncturists. This undermines patient safety and sets a troubling precedent of bypassing established licensure requirements for invasive techniques.

I strongly urge you to reject HB3824 in order to uphold the integrity of professional licensure and protect the public from unregulated, potentially unsafe needling practices.

Respectfully,
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