

Submitter: Tiare Sheller LAc
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

This testimony is submitted in opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of “needle insertion” (Page 3, Line 37) in the physical therapy scope of practice. The term refers to dry needling, a technique that uses acupuncture needles to penetrate the skin and stimulate muscle or nerve tissue—functionally equivalent to acupuncture, as defined in Oregon law. Acupuncturists attend FOUR years of medical school for a master's degree, completing 3,500 hours of training, including 1,000 hours of supervised clinical education. In states where PTs or chiropractors practice dry needling, they typically attend a 2 weekend seminar and then begin using acupuncture needles on patient muscle motor points in their practice. This is no-where near enough knowledge to be able to safely treat a patient. I have watched Youtube videos of these seminars that left me cringing, and at the end it was admitted the practitioner TEACHING the course had caused pneumothorax (collapsed lung) in the patient! I have owned and practiced in my own clinic for ten years and have not had a single adverse event.

Numerous studies highlight increased risks of adverse events when dry needling is performed by inadequately trained providers:
36.7% of dry needling treatments resulted in adverse events, with 20 major complications such as pneumothorax and nerve injury (Brady et al., PM&R, 2014).

For these reasons, the term “needle insertion” should be removed from HB 3824. It is legally inconsistent with existing Oregon law, compromises patient safety, and bypasses established licensure and oversight standards put in place to protect the public by the Oregon Medical Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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