

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

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Oregon State Senate Healthcare Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 3824 – Physical Therapists Performing Dry Needling

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

I am writing to express strong opposition to House Bill 3824, which would authorize physical therapists in Oregon to perform dry needling—a practice that involves the insertion of solid filiform needles into muscle and connective tissue for therapeutic purposes.

Dry needling is an invasive technique that carries risks including bleeding, infection, nerve injury, and pneumothorax. While proponents may argue it is distinct from acupuncture, in practice, it involves similar needle placement and anatomical knowledge. Licensed acupuncturists in Oregon are required to complete over 3,000 hours of training, including comprehensive instruction in anatomy, physiology, and needling safety. By contrast, some physical therapy dry needling certification courses involve fewer than 50 hours of instruction—often completed over a weekend.

Allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling with such minimal training jeopardizes patient safety and undermines the high standards Oregon has historically upheld in regulating invasive procedures. Expanding the scope of practice in this way also sets a troubling precedent, allowing complex techniques to be practiced with insufficient education and oversight.

Dry needling is not simply a physical therapy modality—it is a needling procedure that should remain under the purview of professionals who have been rigorously trained in all aspects of its safe and effective use.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3824 in order to protect Oregon patients and preserve the integrity of healthcare regulation in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Casey McGuire
Licensed Acupuncturist, Certified Sports Medicine Acupuncture
Portland, OR.