

Submitter: Deborah Wilkinson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Honorable Elected Members of the Health Committee:

I am submitting written testimony AGAINST the use of "needle insertion" by Oregon Physical Therapists as described on page 3, line 37 of HB 3824.

It appears to me that this bill is an attempt for physical therapists to encroach upon the practice of licensed acupuncturists without the proper professional training, accreditation and licensure. I feel that there is a significant difference between the two professions, based on being a long time and current patient of both. The hours of study and the knowledge base for a license in acupuncture compared to the length of study taken by a physical therapist to learn to "dry needle" is incomparable. Allowing a physical therapist to practice "dry needling" on a patient is a serious compromise of medical and ethical standards.

I urge you to remove any wordage in the HB3824 that can be interpreted to mean that "dry needling" is a legal practice by physical therapists in Oregon. Whether the intent of the wording in this bill with regards to "needle insertion" is to compromise one medical field against another is a moot point. Patients' health and safety must be the deciding factor.

HB3824, as written, will allow physical therapists in Oregon to "dry needle" without professional and medical qualifications. Acupuncturists have those qualifications. I feel strongly that passage of HB3824, allowing "dry needling" by physical therapists and calling it by the term, "needle insertion" is not only a malicious attempt to hurt one profession over another, but ultimately an extremely potential hazard to patients.