

Submitter: Alexis Fernandez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am writing to strongly oppose the “needle insertion” language in House Bill 3824.

Allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling without comprehensive education, clinical training, or regulation by the Oregon Medical Board puts patients at serious risk. Needle insertion is acupuncture and requires extensive education — over 2,500 hours — not a short weekend course.

Dry needling has been associated with serious adverse outcomes including pneumothorax, nerve injury, and hospitalizations. Proper education around needling is crucial for patient safety and can't be taught in one weekend. Acupuncturists not only complete a large amount of educational hours but are also required to complete supervised clinical hours in needling before they can practice on their own and obtain a license. This bill does not set requirements for education, supervision, removes power from the Oregon Medical Board to determine requirement for learning and safety of needling, and conflicts with existing laws regulating the use of needling in acupuncture. There is no difference between the practice of dry needling and acupuncture.

This bill:

Conflicts with ORS 677.761

Undermines the authority of the Oregon Medical Board

Puts patient safety in jeopardy

Please amend HB 3824 to remove “needle insertion” from the physical therapist scope of practice. Only licensed acupuncturists regulated by the Oregon Medical Board should perform this invasive procedure.

Thank you for protecting Oregon patients and maintaining our high standards of care.