

Submitter: Emily Wood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Oregon State Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong support for allowing licensed physical therapists (PTs) in Oregon to perform dry needling as part of their scope of practice.

Dry needling is a highly effective, evidence-based technique used to treat musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction. It is already widely practiced by physical therapists in many other states, with documented safety and effectiveness. Physical therapists undergo extensive education and clinical training, including doctorate-level coursework in applied anatomy and physiology, and many programs integrate specialized continuing education in dry needling.

Concerns regarding insufficient training are unfounded. Physical therapists are already extensively trained in anatomy, physiology, and clinical reasoning at a doctorate level. Their expertise in evaluating and treating neuromuscular conditions makes them exceptionally qualified to use dry needling as a therapeutic tool. The argument that dry needling should be limited to acupuncturists overlooks the clinical purposes and training frameworks between traditional acupuncture and dry needling.

Allowing PTs to train to practice dry needling in Oregon would increase access to timely, evidence-based care for patients, reduce reliance on medication, and support faster functional recovery. Denying PTs the ability to perform this technique not only limits patient care options but also places Oregon behind the national standard.

I urge you to support this important step forward for Oregon healthcare.

Sincerely,
Emily Wood