

Submitter:

Jennifer Drake

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Three reasons I oppose this Bill and one personal story:

In opposition:

1. There is already a ruling to deny DCs the ability to perform Dry Needling by the Attorney General. This decision was not made in haste or blindly. I believe it should stay for the following:

2. There is no legal or regulatory standard of education for dry needling which is a safety issue for all your constituents/the public. Education and safety does matter. I would never take a 30-90hour course in spinal manipulation or musculoskeletal rehabilitation and then go to my patients and offer bone setting or muscle rehabilitation. This bill is the equivalent. To practice and promote myself in that way would be a malpractice waiting to happen and against my oath as a healthcare provider to do no harm.

3. By passing this bill as is, you assume more risk for the Board of Medicine and increasing liability for all healthcare practitioners who use acupuncture needles (yes, to perform Dry Needling, one must buy acupuncture needles. Dry Needling is a type of orthopedic Acupuncture that is taught at the Masters and Doctoral level of Acupuncture college). Do you want the Board of Medicine to assume more risk and liability? Do you want that on your conscience when you hear that dry needling sent more people to the ER for a dropped lung/pneumothorax or miscarriage?

My personal experience:

As a L.Ac., I had dry needling done when I was pregnant due to severe back pain. Since I was not allowed to take any medication I trusted my Doctor of Chiropractor to perform Dry Needling. Sadly, the DC, who had taken a few weekend courses in DN and had been practicing dry needling for many years, used points that are explicitly contraindicated during pregnancy. Since I had needles in my back and no one was in the room, I was unable to take them out. I prayed and prayed I would not miscarriage. Luckily I didn't and my back pain got worse. As a Licensed Acupuncturist, I was open to dry needling being safe and effective. After that experience, in 2015, I changed my mind. It goes to show even someone with training, like a DC, does not know how to use dry needling in a safe way. I doubt the PTs would be any better.

I encourage you to remember Licensed Acupuncturists are the needle experts and specialists in this country. The U.S. Bureau of Labor identifies "Acupuncturists" as its own specialty field. Let the experts be the experts so the public can stay safe and the Board of Medicine of Oregon can rest knowing the experts are doing the invasive needle procedures.