

Submitter: Annabelle Snow
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Dr. Annabelle Snow. I am a licensed acupuncturist and clinic owner from Portland and I am writing in opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of “needle insertion” (Page 3, Line 37) in the physical therapy scope of practice. The term refers to dry needling, a technique that uses acupuncture needles to penetrate the skin and stimulate muscle or nerve tissue—functionally equivalent to acupuncture, as defined in Oregon law.

I have been practicing acupuncture for over 20 years and have been the co-owner of a busy Wellness Center for most of that time, employing many other acupuncturists, chiropractors, and massage therapists. In 20 years of practice we have never had a needle injury. We would never allow a physical therapist with minimal training to practice dry needling/acupuncture at our clinic. It would be irresponsible and unsafe for our patients. 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. 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.