

Submitter: Isabeau Vollhardt
On Behalf Of: all of my patients
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Before I became an acupuncturist 28 years ago, I was an acupuncture patient. Acupuncture is an integral part of Chinese Medicine which has a written history going back 4,000 years comprising complex systems of diagnosis and treatment. The use of acupuncture points with needles is a skill far beyond mere technical insertion of a needle at a point. It requires knowing how to create a points prescription for every single treatment every single visit -- even the same patient will not have the same points prescription every single time, because the system is based on a holistic understanding of the interaction between the body and the emotions, and the understanding that even using points to treat an orthopedic problem (which is the only kind in a PT's scope of practice -- which does NOT include the diagnosis of a patient) may do the following: affect the function of internal organs; change menstrual cycles; provoke or worsen chronic pain conditions whether or not they are of orthopedic origin; cause miscarriage; cause panic; cause fainting; and in certain cases, when key points are needled incorrectly, cause death. ONLY someone trained in Chinese Medicine or with an MD degree with extensive training in acupuncture (which is still the second best choice because their training in CM is usually limited to acupuncture points and not theory, limited to a few hundred hours of training whereas an LAc has over 1,000 hours of training which also includes pre-med training) should be allowed to practice acupuncture. Acupuncturists are trained to consider when to refer a patient to a variety of other medical professionals, including PTs. PTs would protect themselves from possible malpractice, as well as expand their patient base, if they chose instead to refer their patients to the BEST practitioner of acupuncture, which is a board certified Licensed Acupuncturist trained in Chinese Medicine. The idea of bringing this bill to the floor thinking that it will not cost the patient more and not put them at harm is ludicrous and shows that the representative who proposed it has insufficient knowledge about acupuncture and Chinese Medicine to propose anything at all about the practice of acupuncture in the State of Oregon.

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