

Senate Health Care Committee,

I testify in support of HB 3824. I am an Oregon resident who lived in Idaho during the time legislation was passed there adding Dry Needling to the practice act. I will speak solely on the Dry Needling aspect of this bill and my experiences with the Legislative process in Idaho.

I served as the President of APTA Idaho for six years. My first phone call after becoming president was from a concerned member who had moved from another state. He had been allowed to practice Dry Needling in that state and was facing the difficult choice to move out of state to practice in a way that he knew would best benefit his patients. He was torn, and all I could tell him was that we will work on it. He left the state to practice in a state that allowed Dry Needling.

With the help of concerned lawmakers, we were able to work and draft legislation (HB505) to be introduced. We faced similar opposition to what is being relayed about Dry Needling at this time. With Physical Therapists in more than 40 other states, Canada, the Department of Defense, and many other countries already utilizing Dry Needling, if it were truly the dangerous technique it is being portrayed as, it seems there would be much more press on it. Despite the opposition, I personally presented our bill to the Idaho Health and Welfare Committees of both the House and Senate where it passed with only 3 nay votes in the House committee and 1 in the Senate committee. As it went to the floor of each, the combined vote was 99 for and 6 against. Idaho would no longer lose therapists who wanted to practice Dry Needling to other bordering states. The gentleman who called me, who had moved out of state, contacted me again and was planning to move back to Idaho. This was a win. Not only for current therapists and their patients, but for the state. It helped combat a trend of therapists leaving which led to further decreases in an already sparse healthcare discipline.

With neighboring states, Idaho, Nevada, and most recently Washington passing Dry Needling legislation allowing physical therapists to perform this technique, it is imperative that Oregon also allows its physical therapists to do so. The technique has shown to be safe and effective for more than 40 states, the Department of Defense, and around the world. It will be safe and effective for Oregon too.

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