

Submitter: Dr TruthSayer
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 TruthSayer. I am from Portland, OR, and I am here 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.

Legal and Regulatory Conflict

Under ORS 677.757(1)(a), “acupuncture” is explicitly defined as the stimulation of specific points on the body “by the insertion of needles”. The statute further affirms that acupuncture includes the use of electrical or mechanical devices with or without needles, which are also marketed under dry needling protocols.

In Oregon, acupuncture may only be practiced by those licensed by the Oregon Medical Board under ORS 677.759. Unauthorized practice of acupuncture—including any unlicensed needle insertion—is considered the unauthorized practice of medicine under ORS 677.765 and is subject to penalties.

This bill therefore directly conflicts with established state law by proposing to allow non-OMB-regulated practitioners (physical therapists) to perform a procedure that falls squarely within the legal definition of acupuncture.

In addition, anyone inserting acupuncture needles without 4 years of Traditional Chinese Medicine training is putting the public at risk of physical harm due to ignorance, like a TCM doc taking a weekend course and performing surgery, even simple surgery. The negative consequences are not only to the public, in terms of injury, but also in terms of the public blaming our medicine for the incompetency and mishaps caused by untrained persons using our medicine. Damaging the reputation of TCM deprives the public of the benefits of our medicine. For those reasons and more, I am opposed.

Thank you for your attention and careful consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr TruthSayer, DAOM, Dip.OM, LAc, LMFT