

Submitter: Amy Werner
On Behalf Of: Amy Werner
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am a Doctor of Physical Therapy, with a speciality in dance medicine. The HB 3824 bill will directly impact my patients in many ways, and I can summarize it by describing one of my current dancers.

I am seeing a dancer who had an “ankle injury” six months ago. X-rays at the time were inconclusive for pathology and they were sent home with “ankle sprain” as their diagnosis by the PCP and without orders for physical therapy. This dancer finally came to see me one month ago in on-going and acute pain. My objective assessment is consistent with bone pathology. They need ADA accommodations to drive - I send them back to their PCP to obtain this. They need crutches to off-load the ankle that they’ve been walking on for six months - I send them to urgent care where they keep crutches stocked. They need immediate pain relief that trigger point needling can provide - I send them to a chiropractic/acupuncture office. They need better imaging - I send them to a sports medicine doctor who can order the diagnostics. This one dancer needed FOUR ADDITIONAL visits beyond the one visit scheduled with me. That’s an egregious misuse of time, money and resources, both for the healthcare system and for this one individual. I wish I could say that this is a stand alone example in my practice, but it is not.

As a profession, our entry level education ensures that we are able to triage patients with neuromusculoskeletal conditions. It is within our basic, foundational training to understand how to rule in/out conditions that are appropriate for our care. There are times when we need additional training, and adding the skill of dry needling will be that time. But please do not be swayed from the basic truths at stake that are being used against us with this bill. Providing trigger point release via a needle is well within our scope of highly specialized anatomy, integumentary, and lymphatic education.

I have worked in this profession in some capacity for almost twenty years. I believe that my three little initials after my name deserve to be protected. Please pass this bill for these reasons:

1. Ensuring DPT is only designated for Doctors of Physical Therapy
2. Allowing DPT’s to write orders for diagnostic imaging where appropriate
3. Allowing DPT’s to write prescriptions for Durable Medical Equipment, DME, such as crutches
4. Allowing DPT’s to write orders for our disabled patients to obtain parking permits
5. Allowing DPT’s to provide dry needling, where appropriate, and in a consistent fashion with 46 other states in the USA