

Here's why you should vote NO on Bill 3824

To be able to put a needle in someone I first need to obtain a degree. Then I will be required to take three board exams to become licensed.

By allowing physical therapists to needle you are allowing them to forgo medical training requirements. This not only bypasses acupuncturist requirements, but also physicians who do injections. Just because I will be obtaining my Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine does not mean I am also a physical therapist or prescribing pharmaceuticals.

I believe in integrative medicine. But what you have here are physical therapists that want to cut corners both professionally and financially. Integrative medicine means a team of practitioners who each bring skilled training, not one person who treats everything.

If a physical therapist wants to include needling in their practice then they are required, like the rest of us, to receive comprehensive medical training and take a board exam to do it. Here's a real life example of how this goes outside of those rules. A friend of mine spends time in Texas. She tells me she has a friend who is very excited about 'dry needling' at the physical therapy clinic where they work. Upon inquiry I learn that her friend is not licensed nor trained to insert needles into patients, but they do so under 'supervision' of their licensed friend. That friend isn't actually directly supervising them, but somewhere in the building. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want to be that patient if I really knew what was going on. This opens the door to blood borne pathogens, needle shock and potentially harming patients without understanding the dangers of deep needling or contamination, or even the roots of the medicine. It flies in the face of everyone who obtained a degree and took several board exams, just to be able to understand how to needle and its contraindications.

I urge you to protect Acupuncture in the state of Oregon. This is a powerful medicine and it should not be appropriated. Most of all, it puts the business of Acupuncture at risk.

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