

Submitter:

Jennifer Haunold

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Thousands of people across the country have benefited from physical therapists using dry needling as part of their plan of treatment to treat pain and improve muscle function. Many other states allow dry needling to be done by PTs, and I myself benefited from it being performed on me 15 years ago, before a territory battle with the Accupuncture and Physiatry boards in this state resulted in a ruling that PTs were not qualified to perform dry needling. This was too bad because the wellbeing of patients should be the focus, and PTs are extremely well qualified to learn dry needling techniques to augment their treatment plans. As it is, we must put a lot more effort into deactivating trigger points through other hands on techniques that both take more time, more treatment sessions (increasing the cost for patients), are harder on the PTs body over time, and harder on the patient's body as they can be quite uncomfortable (think of working on those painful muscle knots!). Dry needling is safe, effective, and will result in improved outcomes for those seeking care from a physical therapist.