

Submitter: Michael Bernsten

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

As a student of Chinese medicine, I strongly believe that the practice of needling should remain exclusively within the scope of licensed acupuncturists. Acupuncture is a complex medical system grounded in thousands of hours of education in anatomy, physiology, safety, and classical theory. Physical therapists typically receive only minimal training in needling techniques, often through weekend courses, which does not meet the clinical standards required to ensure patient safety or effectiveness.

Allowing undertrained professionals to needle increases the risk of injury such as pneumothorax, nerve damage, and infection and dilutes public understanding of a regulated medical practice. For the integrity of the medicine and the protection of the public, needling should remain under the care of trained Chinese medicine practitioners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.