

Submitter:

Malinda Finnell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

I am a Licensed acupuncturist in our state. I have completed over 1000 hours of training for my degree. Our field sadly doesn't have the funds to stand up against the physical therapists in any organized way so I'll let you know that I can confidently oppose this bill asking for Physical Therapist to be able to use dry needling in our state.

Most injuries with acupuncture needles [this is what dry needling is dry means not hollow = acupuncture] have been with physical therapists who believe they are so confident with the body physiology and have just a weekend of training in the needles and they create pneumothorax and other conditions.

My degree has been reduced in value because of the people who want to take a single aspect of needling and bill for it with insurance companies. A sad fact is that these fields who are significantly less trained get much higher reimbursement from insurance for the same codes as acupuncturists. This is the same with MDs. This leaves us in a position to be unable to afford lobbyists to protect our field and scope of practice.

We succeeded in keeping chiropractors away from the needles 14 years ago and I strongly believe you need to make the same decision for physical therapists.