

Submitter:

Jennifer Netzer

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Please vote "NO" on HB3824. Anyone who tells you that acupuncture is only about inserting needles into the skin truly has no idea how this ancient system has brought healing to millions of people all over the world. Oregon's Licensed Acupuncturists attended graduate school for 3-4 years (depending on their program) to earn their Master's degree in order to sit for extensive board exams in order to practice. We have not only learned safe and efficacious practices for inserting needles into the correct location, but how to differentiate diagnoses. In Chinese Medicine, we do not have a set point protocol for each diagnosis, such as migraine headache, but rather use our diagnostic skills to determine why the individual is suffering from the migraine headache to determine which points, in which order, and how to adjust the points over the course of treatment. I could have six different patients with migraine and treat them all very differently depending on the cause.

Any provider who has not completed the education and board exams for acupuncture should not be providing acupuncture. Licensed acupuncturists are not allowed to order lab tests, give inoculations, perform surgery, prescribe pharmaceuticals, etc. because we have not had the proper training or testing to determine that we are safe to do so. All modalities should be treated as such. Anything else is creating potential for ineffective treatment at best and harm to patients at worst.

Recently, I had a client whose insurance policy changed and she was forced to see an Medical Doctor for acupuncture to be covered by her insurance. She saw this Medical Doctor for 3 visits and said it was one of the worst experiences of her life. Not only did he not examine her properly, but she had no relief from her symptoms and reported that the provider "just did the same points every visit." He did not take her pulses, a key diagnostic tool in Chinese medicine, and when she asked him why he responded "because I'm not any good at it." He also told her to come back 2x/week for 4 weeks and if she didn't feel better by then that "acupuncture won't help you." This Medical Doctor was reimbursed triple the amount of money that Licensed Acupuncturists are reimbursed for the same service.

I find this to be extremely disheartening. Not only does this Medical Doctor believe he knows what he is doing with such confidence to declare that an entire modality is ineffective if it doesn't help within a month, but he is earning more money to provide a subpar service to a patient who could have received much better and efficacious care from a Licensed Acupuncturist.

Please do the right thing for the people of Oregon and vote "NO" on HB3824. The State of Oregon has licensing requirements and testing for a reason - to keep people safe. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you for your time.