

Submitter: Amber Campana
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Amber Campana. I am from Eugene, and I am here in opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of “needle insertion” (Page 3, Line 37) in the physical therapy scope of practice. The term refers to dry needling, a technique that uses acupuncture needles to penetrate the skin and stimulate muscle or nerve tissue, functionally equivalent to acupuncture, as defined in Oregon law.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3824, which proposes significant changes to the scope of practice for physical therapists in Oregon. While the bill aims to expand the roles of physical therapists, I am concerned that it may inadvertently affect the practice of acupuncture and undermine the integrity of established healthcare professions.

1. Potential Confusion and Role Dilution

The proposed expansion of physical therapists' scope of practice could lead to confusion among patients regarding the roles and qualifications of healthcare providers. Acupuncturists undergo rigorous training and certification processes to ensure safe and effective treatment. The introduction of new responsibilities for physical therapists may blur the lines between distinct healthcare professions, potentially leading to misunderstandings about who is qualified to provide specific treatments.

2. Impact on Collaborative Care Models

Acupuncturists often work in collaborative care settings alongside other healthcare professionals, including physical therapists. The proposed changes in HB 3824 could disrupt these established collaborative models by introducing overlapping responsibilities. Such disruptions may hinder the holistic and integrated care that patients currently receive, potentially leading to fragmented treatment approaches.

3. Risk of Overextension and Patient Safety

The expansion of physical therapists' duties, such as prescribing durable medical equipment and administering vaccines, raises concerns about the adequacy of their training in these areas. Acupuncturists receive specialized education in their field, and similar standards of training and certification should be maintained for all

healthcare providers. Allowing individuals without appropriate training to undertake additional medical responsibilities could compromise patient safety.

4. Need for Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Before implementing significant changes to healthcare practices, it is essential to conduct a thorough assessment of the potential impacts on all affected professions. I urge the committee to consider the perspectives of acupuncturists and other healthcare providers to ensure that any changes to scope of practice are well-informed and do not inadvertently harm patient care or professional standards.

Conclusion

While I understand the intent behind HB 3824 to enhance healthcare delivery, I believe that the proposed changes could have unintended negative consequences for the practice of acupuncture and the broader healthcare community. I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the provisions of this bill and engage in a more comprehensive evaluation of its potential impacts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amber E. Campana DACM, LAc