

Submitter:

Brodie Welch

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Needle insertion is literally the definition of acupuncture. Acupuncture is considered a very safe modality when performed by well-trained professionals. Licensed Acupuncturists receive upwards of 2500 hours of training to earn a Masters degree, which includes hundreds of hours of clinical supervision-- far more than the weekend workshops that teach "dry needling" to other medical professionals. To protect the public from adverse effects, such as organ puncture and nerve damage, I urge you to limit the insertion of needles to Licensed Acupuncturists who have proven through board examinations and programs with extensive supervision. Further, to pretend that dry needling is anything other than acupuncture is a form of cultural appropriation -- taking what has been a part of Traditional Chinese Medicine for millennia and calling it something else.

The public is far safer when medical professionals know the limits of their scope of practice and refer out when necessary.