

Submitter:

Susan Froehlich

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

6 May 2025

HB 3824

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to oppose HB 3824 A, which would allow poorly trained physical therapists to insert acupuncture needles into their clients, having only a scant amount of

training. This is both deceiving to the general public

(I mean, if physical therapists are using acupuncture needles, aren't they then doing acupuncture??)

And unsafe (potential for causing pneumothorax due to improper placement of needles - this

happened to an elite/olympic athlete, snowboarder in Colorado, putting him out of competition

until it healed. This would not have happened if the practitioner was well trained.).

I would like Physical therapists to be able to use Chinese medicine in their treatment plans - it

is extremely effective for musculoskeletal conditions! I just ask that they go through a Chinese

medical program and be certified just like the rest of us. I have over 2500 educational hours to

be able to practice this very complex medicine. What do PTs of today have in order to do "dry

needling" ? Maybe 12 hours?? Not enough safe training.

Also, how will anyone oversee that PTs are just doing dry needling? Joe Public only sees

acupuncture needles and rightly assumes that the PT is doing acupuncture. And then one day,

Joe Public comes in to his PT and has a severe headache - and gently asks the PT, isn't

acupuncture good for headaches? Can you treat my headache? Most PTs are genuinely caring

professionals and what's the harm in just adding a few needles for his HA - no one will know?

Who is going to oversee that they do not go out of their bounds of "dry needling" and treat

other conditions? After all, they are using acupuncture needles. . .

The original "dry needling" came about with the use of a DRY hypodermic needle.

(Thus the term “dry needling”). Maybe PTs ought to use hypodermic needles if they want to do dry needling. Why call it “dry” needling if they are not using a DRY hypodermic needle? If they are using acupuncture needles, they are doing acupuncture without the rigorous training that they should have - to protect the public from needle accidents and to provide good medical care. One would not use sewing needles for knitting , nor crochet needles for knitting - acupuncture needles should be used for acupuncture and there are clear rules and regulations on who can practice acupuncture in the state of Oregon. These should be followed and applied. You want to practice acupuncture, go get the necessary education and follow the rules. This was fought in court years ago - why is it being brought up again? I think we should all work together - PTs have a great place in the treatment plan, and so do acupuncturists. Why would you want specialists in their fields to do treatments that they are not educated to do, when others who are, live in their community and can be called on to work together? I strongly urge you to cancel HB 3824 for the protection of all of us.

Sincerely,  
Susan Froehlich,  
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