

Submitter: Mark Goldby  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Acupuncturists  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Senate Committee on Health,

I have been a licensed and practicing Acupuncturist in the State of Oregon since August of 1995. I also taught at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine for 18 years and was one of the first acupuncturists to ever receive research funding from the NIH. I am unequivocally opposed to the passage of HB3824 for the reasons outlined below.

Acupuncture is not simply the insertion of needles into the body. It is a highly complex and holistic understanding of how the body regulates itself in both sickness and health that has been empirically developed over many thousands of years and billions of individual treatments. This complex empirical understanding is embodied within Chinese Medical Theory, which takes many years of graduate level education and post-graduate practice to master in order to apply it effectively. This reality is already embodied within the well thought-out and deliberated Oregon Acupuncture Licensure requirements. To allow other types of medical practitioners, such as Physical Therapists, to conduct “dry needling” under their license, as if it is some form of actual acupuncture, without having actually been trained in acupuncture to the same degree as licensed acupuncturist are required by Oregon law, would make a mockery of these long-standing laws and of my profession. It would also be a huge disservice to their patients, who may be under the impression that their PT is actually trained in the complex empirical science of how, when, and where to insert needles to positively affect the course of their illness or injury. There is no such training for “dry needling”. “Dry Needling is a fraudulent and misleading misappropriation of traditional acupuncture techniques done without adequate and appropriate training and has no place being allowed in the State of Oregon.

Thank you for considering my position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Goldby, MAcOM, LAc