

Submitter:

Vanessa Fritz

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 Vanessa Fritz. I am from Portland, OR, 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.

There are already hundreds of qualified, certified acupuncturists with several years of training on the use of acupuncture needles to stimulate muscles and nerves. Instead of expanding the scope of a PT who does not have this type of training, it makes more financial sense to employ the practitioners that already specialize in dry needling. This would ensure safe and effective treatment for patients. In addition, there can be long wait times to access PT services, whereas this is not an issue with acupuncturists. Let the PTs continue to do what they are already very good at, and normalize referrals to acupuncturists for dry needling and acupuncture. Many acupuncturists in Oregon take insurance including Medicaid, making them an accessible and affordable resource.