

Submitter: Elizabeth Scott
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My Name is Elizabeth Scott,

I am an licensed acupuncturist in Oregon and have just been made aware of this Bill, and am writing to voice my opposition to it.

To become a licensed acupuncturist in the state of Oregon, rigorous schooling and testing is required, as well as continual education to ensure safety around this practice. This is because there are many potential dangers that come with inserting a needle into someone's body without the proper education. Acupuncturists go to school for many years to ensure the safety of their patients, as well as to ensure a positive reputation for this discipline.

When physical therapists, or chiropractors, or any other healthcare practitioner take a weekend dry needling course, it is insulting to the years of study we have undergone. I have great respect for all health care practitioners who genuinely want what is best for their patients, though allowing people to perform medicine outside their scope of practice without the adequate training could potentially cause significant harm.

Harm to the patient if an insertion is done incorrectly, which could potentially be damaging or fatal.

Harm to the reputation of acupuncture as a branch of medicine, because regardless of what you call it (dry needling/needling insertions) it is still acupuncture at its core and it is how people will think of it.

Acupuncture is often regarded as a pseudoscience, and we have fought for legitimacy within the modern medical field. Allowing non-licensed practitioners to practice "dry needling" and "needle insertions" and claim that it is different from acupuncture is appropriative, and diminishing to the work we have done to become licensed and establish ourselves as serious providers.

Unless the provider has completed a program akin acupuncture school, I strongly discourage the OMB to allow them to perform these techniques as it is could be harmful for the patients and the general perception of acupuncture as an overall practice.