

Submitter: Amalia Ibarra  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My name is Amalia Ibarra. I'm a mother, a full-time graduate student of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine at NUNM, and a community-based healer in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing in strong and urgent opposition to any legislation that would allow physical therapists in Oregon to legally perform dry needling.

Dry needling is acupuncture. It involves the insertion of filiform needles into the body to relieve pain, release tissue, and influence bodily function—just like acupuncture. And acupuncture is not a simple technique; it is a complex medical system rooted in thousands of years of clinical observation and healing tradition. In Oregon, licensed acupuncturists are required to complete over 3,000 hours of academic and supervised clinical training, pass national board exams, and maintain continuing education to ensure safe and effective treatment.

Allowing physical therapists to insert needles into patients after a short workshop or online course—sometimes as little as 27 hours—is a serious threat to public safety. It disregards the rigorous standards applied to every other needle-based profession, including acupuncture, nursing, and medicine. Patients deserve to know that the person inserting a needle into their body has been fully trained in both its potential and its risks.

Even more concerning is how this proposal has been bundled into broader language around “needle insertion” and vaccine administration. These are completely separate scopes, and lumping them together creates confusion and opens dangerous loopholes. Vaccination is a public health measure with standardized training and protocol. Dry needling is a therapeutic intervention that manipulates internal structures, energy, and function. They must be treated separately.

This is not about professional competition—it's about patient safety, cultural respect, and honoring the integrity of a time-tested medical system. As a future licensed acupuncturist, I've spent years immersed in the study of the body, its meridians, its vulnerabilities, and its healing potential. Our training is not interchangeable with a weekend course.

I urge you to reject any legislation that includes dry needling in the physical therapy scope of practice. Oregon has been a leader in honoring both public health and traditional healing systems. Let's keep that standard.

Respectfully,  
Amalia Ibarra  
Student of Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine  
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