

Submitter:

KINE FISCHLER

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

HB 3824 proposes allowing physical therapists to perform "needle insertion" (see page 3, line 37), a practice explicitly defined as acupuncture under Oregon law. This proposal undermines licensure requirements, endangers patient safety, and violates state statute.

ORS 677.759(1) states:

"No person shall practice acupuncture without first obtaining a license to practice medicine and surgery or a license to practice acupuncture from the Oregon Medical Board..."

ORS 677.757(1)(a) defines acupuncture as:

"...the stimulation of specific points on the surface of the body by the insertion of needles."

Inserting needles and performing "dry needling" is just another name for ACUPUNCTURE. Inserting needles is OUT OF THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE for physical therapists because they do not receive any training in proper diagnosis or point protocols that are safe for the patients. It is an endangerment to the public, to the consumer, to be needled by someone who has not been spent the time gaining the skills with proper supervision by a trained acupuncturist. If a Physical Therapist wants to learn acupuncture, they should attend a 4 year accredited program to become licensed to perform acupuncture safely, and effectively. The weekend workshops are not an adequate substitution to now include needle insertion in their scope of practice.

Statue ORS 677.759(1) is already established to protect public safety. Increased risk of harm has been demonstrated by the rise of malpractices claims in states that allow chiropractors and physical therapists to perform needle insertion under the name of "dry needling" which is just another name for acupuncture. Licensed acupuncturists do not cause life threatening pneumothorax with improper needling - we have nearly 3600 hours of intensive needling training to prevent such incidents. This rise in malpractice claims is due to the lobbying of these professions to include needle insertion in their scope of practice without them actually doing the due diligence of doing the training and the studying to be able to perform this medical procedure.

I oppose HB3824, along with the thousands of other Licensed Acupuncturists in the

State of Oregon. Please do not support this action.

Dr. Kiné Fischler, DACM, LAc