

Submitter:

Christie Wilburn

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

As a licensed acupuncturist, I strongly oppose HB3824. I think it is important to protect the integrity of my occupation and practice as a medical provider. I believe that all providers that are doing needle insertion should have to go through rigorous training and the same amount of education that I received, being that I was required to obtain a masters degree in acupuncture and had to pass state board exams to prove my proficiency in acupuncture. I think that giving people the opportunity to do Acupuncture under the guise of some other sort of physical therapy is detrimental to the financial wellbeing of people in my occupation. Acupuncturist in Oregon are notoriously underpaid and are having difficulty paying back student loans. We have a terrible debt to income ratios and having others doing our work is only going to further that disproportionate reimbursement and further lead to inadequate livelihood for people in our profession. I also believe that allowing people with less education to practice needling is detrimental because it creates more room for error and more cause for patients being concerned that there may be some negative outcome of receiving acupuncture. Also, if a physical therapist can bill for Acupuncture, there are a lot of people that will not receive acupuncture care from a licensed acupuncturist because they will not understand the difference in the therapy provided. Furthermore, the type of musculoskeletal work that the physical therapist would be doing is already part of the acupuncturists skill set, however, we also treat the whole person keeping in mind intricacies that may affect outcome that physical therapists are not going to be aware of. For all of these reasons mentioned I strongly oppose this bill, not just for my own practice, but for the practices of all licensed Acupuncturists in the state of Oregon. Please protect our occupation and the safety of Oregon citizens by rejecting this bill.