

Submitter:

Diana Watson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

I strongly oppose the proposed bill that would authorize physical therapists (PTs) to perform needle insertion procedures, such as dry needling, due to serious concerns regarding patient safety, inadequate training, and professional overreach.

Needle insertion is an invasive procedure that carries risks of infection, nerve injury, and pneumothorax. Licensed acupuncturists undergo extensive, specialized training—typically over 3,000 hours—in needle technique, anatomy, and clean needle protocols. In contrast, many PT dry needling certifications require only 20–100 hours of training, which is insufficient to ensure safe and effective practice.

Allowing PTs to perform this procedure undermines established standards of care and may lead to increased adverse outcomes. Furthermore, it blurs the line between medical and allied health practices, creating potential legal and regulatory complications.

Patient safety and professional integrity must remain paramount. I urge legislators to reject this bill and preserve the distinction between physical therapy and invasive medical procedures.