

Submitter:

KYLE OVERMAN

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Acupuncturists are highly trained to safely administer needles and care for patients if they experience needle shock. Acupuncturists apply chinese theory, anatomy and a whole body approach to treatments. Clearly dry needling should not be used by physical therapists with limited hours of experience in this field. If so the hours of training should be equivalent to acupuncturists and they should be trained with the same history in which this therapy originated.

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.”