

Submitter: Timothy Prag
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Law-Makers,

While I do not oppose all aspects of this bill, I ask that the portion that provides with physical therapists with a scope that includes "needle insertion" needs to be revised or removed entirely. This would be akin to acupuncture, which has it's own techniques, principles, risks, and therapeutic benefits - traditionally transmitted from teacher to student over the course of decades. To practice acupuncture in today's healthcare landscape requires at minimum a Master's and at maximum a Doctorate degree, which vary from 3 to 5 years of full-time professional education. To grant physical therapists - who have no such training - the scope of practice to include acupuncture in their practice puts their patients at risk. Physical therapists already have a variety of tools at their disposal - hands, exercise programs, etc. - which they can continue to hone in service of their patients.

There is no need to open to door to additional modalities (use of needles) in which they have no formal training.

Either this language ("needle insertion") needs to be removed entirely, or updated to include only those methods in which a physical therapist is formally trained. If this includes the use of a needle; it must specify the name and the purpose of the therapy, so as to avoid conflation between their methods and those such as acupuncture which take years of training to practice effectively and safely.

Thank you for your consideration,

Timothy Motoyuki Prag
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