

Submitter: Mary Jean Brinkman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Mary Jean Brinkman, and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of “needle insertion” in the scope of practice for physical therapists.

Dry needling, which involves inserting needles into the body, is essentially acupuncture. In Oregon, acupuncture is defined and regulated by the Oregon Medical Board, and only those licensed under ORS 677.759 are permitted to perform it. Any unlicensed insertion of needles is considered unauthorized practice of medicine under ORS 677.765 and carries legal penalties.

Allowing physical therapists to perform needle insertion without going through the established licensing and oversight structure directly conflicts with Oregon law and puts patients at risk. Licensed acupuncturists in Oregon complete thousands of hours of rigorous training, including extensive supervised clinical experience. In contrast, dry needling courses for physical therapists often involve fewer than 100 hours of training, which is deeply concerning from a safety standpoint.

This bill sidesteps critical education and regulatory requirements that exist to protect the public. For the safety of Oregonians and the integrity of our licensing system, I urge you to remove “needle insertion” from HB 3824.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Mary Jean Brinkman