

Submitter:	Dean Cisco
On Behalf Of:	Improved Patient Access to Care
Committee:	Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3824

HB3824A aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy by allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling, as is allowed in 46 other states. The ongoing prevention of this practice by licensed physical therapists in Oregon is akin to tying one hand behind their back, as it is one of the most effective and specific interventions in a physical therapist's arsenal. While working as a physical therapist in Idaho, I frequently utilized the expertise of PTs who performed dry needling via co-treats with my patients and saw the effectiveness of this intervention to decrease pain, improve neuromuscular function, and provide immediate, tangible results in patients' function. It has been demonstrated in multiple peer-reviewed, high-quality studies that the risk of adverse events from physical therapists performing dry needling is incredibly low (comparable to other therapeutic interventions such as exercise, soft tissue mobilization, and joint mobilization). With a doctorate-level education that is heavy in anatomy and physiology, physical therapists are more than qualified to safely administer dry needling techniques with the appropriate supplemental education via accredited continuing education classes. Let's get Oregon up to speed with the rest of the country by allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling. There is undeniable evidence that this is what is best for those suffering from pain, movement dysfunction, and neuromuscular impairment.