

Submitter: Jack Gillingham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My name is Jack Gillingham, I am a licensed physical therapist in the state of Oregon. I was formally trained in Missouri at Saint Louis University. I had many different classes and clinical learning experiences that dealt with the issues on this bill. Many of my clinical instructors were certified in dry needling, which was very effective for the patients that we saw. This includes needling musculature in the regions surrounding the lungs. Not one time have any of those professionals caused injury of any kind with these techniques. These practitioners also would not perform these techniques if they believed they would be ineffective or unsafe, or if they were not trained in the application of them to certain areas of the body. In my own practice, I see many patients that would significantly benefit from these technique applications that would reduce their pain and improve their function after car accidents, workplace injuries, sport injuries, chronic conditions, and many other types of conditions/injuries.

I was also instructed and educated regarding wound debridement in school. This is a mandatory part of PT curriculum and must be present for an educational program to be accredited, which is required for licensing. We are educated regarding types of debridement, rationals behind each type, pros and cons of these treatments, and when it is indicated and contraindicated for patients. This is also something I have seen physical therapists perform in the clinical setting, including debridement for children in the hospital who have suffered serious burns.

There is no reason why the state of Oregon should not institute these changes as well as others not mentioned above. Physical therapists are vital members of the healthcare team for all patients and having more tools at our disposal will only benefit the residents of this state who are seeking help to improve their health.