

Submitter: David Savage

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

This testimony is submitted in opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of “needle insertion” (Page 3, Line 37) in the physical therapy scope of practice. The term refers to dry needling, a technique that uses acupuncture needles to penetrate the skin and stimulate muscle or nerve tissue—functionally equivalent to acupuncture, as defined in Oregon law.

Licensed acupuncturists in Oregon must complete 2,500 to 3,500 hours of training, including 800–1,000 hours of supervised clinical education. This far exceeds the 20–100 hours of training typically offered in dry needling courses for physical therapists. Many good acupuncturists are doctors and have well exceeded this amount of training. Acupuncture and herbal medicine are extremely complicated and, when done properly, effective. This discrepancy of training has serious implications for patient safety. This not only presents a danger to the patients it also undermines actual acupuncture practitioners who would now have a large contingent of people doing a technique that will have limited effect and, therefore, the patients believing that acupuncture does not work for them.

In Western medicine practices it would be similar to allowing people who work at a drugstore, who are very good at what they do, to be trained where all the drugs were stored so they could dispense them to patients and save the expense of a pharmacist.

Although this is probably being promoted by people who stand to gain financially it is not a good idea to remove an important regulation that was there in the first place for a very good reason.

I am opposed.

Dave Savage