

Submitter:

Laura McGraw

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Subject: Oppose Needle Insertion by Physical Therapists – HB 3824 Endangers Patient Safety

I am writing to strongly oppose the “needle insertion” language in House Bill 3824.

Allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling without comprehensive education, clinical training, or regulation by the Oregon Medical Board puts patients at serious risk. Needle insertion is acupuncture and requires extensive education — over 2,500 hours — not a short weekend course.

Dry needling has been associated with serious adverse outcomes including pneumothorax, nerve injury, and hospitalizations. Dry needling is also Sports medicine Acupuncture which is a field that needs more than 2500 hours of training.

Using the word Dry needling is trying to get around the license of Acupuncture.

When I worked In Canada as an Acupuncturist several pneumothorax occurred from PT's and MD's doing dry needling without proper training in a very short period of time.

This changed legislation in Canada, let's not make that mistake here in Oregon.

Keeping patients safe is the number one priority.

This bill:

- Conflicts with ORS 677.761
- Undermines the authority of the Oregon Medical Board
- Puts patient safety in jeopardy

Please amend HB 3824 to remove “needle insertion” from the physical therapist scope of practice. Only licensed acupuncturists regulated by the Oregon Medical Board should perform this invasive procedure.

Thank you for protecting Oregon patients and maintaining our high standards of care.

Laura McGraw, L.Ac

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