

Submitter:

Dain Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

As a student of Chinese Medicine at NUNM, I recently learned about HB 3824 and wanted to testify to let you know that many in the acupuncture community are opposed to HB 3824, as am I, as it poses potential harm to patients and would potentially negatively affect my future profession.

The majority of the bill seems perfectly reasonable, except for the part in which it allows physical therapists to perform “needle insertion” (page 3, line 37) for therapeutic purposes, which seems to be an expansion of the scope of practice of physical therapists into acupuncture. Acupuncture is defined by ORS 677.757(1)(a) as “...the stimulation of specific points on the surface of the body by the insertion of needles.”

From what I’ve gathered, it seems physical therapists are only required to attend a very short (3-9 day) course in order to be certified for “dry needling” (which is essentially acupuncture), while people in my field have to attend 4+ years of school to learn how and where to properly insert needles. I worry that such a short training period would not only pose a threat to patient safety due to the increased likelihood of needle injuries, but would potentially de-legitimize needling and acupuncture as a healing modality requiring serious study.

Here are a few grim facts about “dry needling” and its negative impact on patients:

- 36.7% of dry needling treatments resulted in adverse events, with 20 major complications such as pneumothorax and nerve injury (Brady et al., PM&R, 2014).??
- A Polish study reported 3% pneumothorax, 14% nerve palsy, and 1% hospitalization (Majchrzycki et al., MDPI, 2022).??
- Multiple case reports confirm life-threatening events, including bilateral pneumothorax and prolonged nerve damage (Sahin et al., JournalAgent, 2020; Western Journal of Emergency Medicine, 2013).?

Citations:

- ORS 677.757–677.785: Licensing and regulation of acupuncture in Oregon??
- Brady S, et al. Adverse events following trigger point dry needling: a prospective survey of 20,000 treatments. PM&R. 2014;6(9):847–852.??
- Majchrzycki M, et al. Adverse Reactions to Dry Needling Therapy: Insights from Polish Practitioners.MDPI. 2022.??
- Boissonnault WG, et al. Traumatic Pneumothorax Following Acupuncture: A Case Series. Western Journal of Emergency Medicine. 2013

Thank you for taking the time to read my long message, and I hope that you take it into consideration.