

Submitter: Mary Clark
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3824
Submitted by Dr. Mary Clark, DACM, LAc – Raleigh, NC

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Mary Clark, and I'm a licensed acupuncturist practicing in Raleigh, NC. I'm writing in strong opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of "needle insertion" on page 3, line 37.

In Oregon law (ORS 677.757), acupuncture is clearly defined as the insertion of needles to stimulate specific points on the body—a definition that includes dry needling. Under ORS 677.759, only practitioners licensed by the Oregon Medical Board are authorized to perform this technique. HB 3824 directly conflicts with that law by allowing physical therapists—who are not OMB-regulated—to carry out a procedure that falls squarely within the legal definition of acupuncture.

This raises serious safety concerns. As a DACM with over 3,000 hours of education and 1,000 hours of supervised clinical training, I can say with confidence that weekend dry needling courses offering 20–100 hours of training do not provide adequate preparation to safely insert needles into the body.

Adverse events—including pneumothorax, nerve injury, and hospitalization—have been documented in the literature when dry needling is performed by undertrained providers. We owe it to the public to maintain high standards and consistent regulation for any procedure that involves piercing the skin.

For the safety of patients and the integrity of the law, I urge you to remove the term "needle insertion" from HB 3824.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Dr Mary Clark DACM LAc