

Subject: Opposition to HB 3824 – Authorization for Physical Therapists to Use Acupuncture Needles

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 3824, particularly the provision that would allow physical therapists to insert acupuncture needles, commonly referred to as "dry needling."

While this practice may appear similar to acupuncture, it is fundamentally different in philosophy, application, and—most importantly—training. Licensed acupuncturists undergo thousands of hours of rigorous, accredited education and clinical experience to safely and effectively use needles as part of an integrated system of diagnosis and treatment. This training encompasses not only anatomy and needling technique but also traditional East Asian medical theory, differential diagnosis, and patient safety protocols.

By contrast, the dry needling training provided to physical therapists typically involves only a short seminar or limited coursework—far less comprehensive than what is required of licensed acupuncturists. Allowing physical therapists to use acupuncture needles without meeting equivalent education and clinical standards undermines the integrity of the acupuncture profession and endangers public safety.

Acupuncture is a regulated medical practice in Oregon for a reason. Its safe and effective use depends on a deep understanding of both human physiology and the principles of traditional medicine. Permitting individuals without sufficient training to insert needles into patients increases the risk of misdiagnosis, injury, and harm.

HB 3824 disrespects the years of education and clinical practice that licensed acupuncturists are required to complete and sets a dangerous precedent of lowering standards in the name of convenience.

For the safety of Oregon residents and the integrity of licensed healthcare professions, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3824 or remove the provision allowing physical therapists to perform procedures that fall squarely within the scope of licensed acupuncture.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Kramer