

Submitter: Krishna Bharath
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

To Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Krishina Bharath, and I am a resident of Oregon writing as a patient who is concerned about the safety implications of House Bill 3824.

This bill would allow physical therapists to perform “needle insertion,” a procedure that involves the use of acupuncture needles to penetrate the skin. From a patient’s perspective, this raises serious questions. When I receive care that involves needles being inserted into my body, I expect that the provider has undergone extensive, standardized training and is regulated by a medical licensing board.

Acupuncturists in Oregon must complete thousands of hours of education and supervised clinical experience before they are licensed. In contrast, dry needling courses for physical therapists often involve fewer than 100 hours of training, with no consistent oversight. To a patient, that difference matters—not just in terms of safety, but also in being fully informed about who is providing care and how qualified they are to do so.

Allowing needle insertion under such varied training standards would create confusion and potentially compromise patient safety. I believe Oregon should maintain clear boundaries and protect the public by ensuring that invasive procedures remain within the scope of licensed professionals trained to perform them.

I respectfully urge you to oppose the inclusion of “needle insertion” in HB 3824.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Krishina Bharath
Portland, Oregon