

As a Licensed Acupuncturist in the state of Oregon with both a Master's degree and Doctorate in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine I am opposed to HB 2834. It is a dishonest attempt to allow physical therapists with no formal training to perform "needle insertion" (see page 3, line 37), a practice explicitly defined as acupuncture under Oregon Law.

Patient safety: Inserting a needle anywhere into a patient's body can have multiple effects.

For example, it is contra-indicated to needle certain points in pregnant women. Conversely, these same points can be used to induce labor when pregnancy has reached full term. In the past 18 years I have successfully induced labor in several patients by needling points in the shoulders, arms, and legs. In fact, I once used acupuncture points in the legs and feet to turn a breech baby for one of my patients during her 3rd trimester.

Another safety concern is acupoints that can immediately lower blood pressure. If a patient is taking one or more medications for high blood pressure, then certain acupoints should be avoided as they can have an additive effect leading to what is called "needle shock" (sudden hypotension). I've seen this occur twice as an intern and it happened to one of my own patients in private practice. This patient failed to inform me that she had been prescribed two blood pressure medications to offset the side effects of an anti-depressant.

Medical integrity: Does acupuncture help treat pain and musculoskeletal problems? Yes. However, inserting acupuncture needles into a patient can have multiple effects.

Since 1973 in the state of Oregon, any time someone has reported health improvements from "needle insertion" it has been because of the efforts of properly trained Licensed Acupuncturists. Please maintain the quality and integrity of acupuncture in our state and vote "No" on HB 2834.

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