

Submitter: Carolyn Cohen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Greetings.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3824, which would allow physical therapists to use acupuncture needles for therapeutic dry needling.

I am a licensed acupuncturist with over 3800 hours of training. My main concern is the safety of patients who would receive dry needling from a physical therapist (or anyone) with only a few hundred hours of training.

Dry needling can be performed aggressively or gently. Many of the short courses in dry needling use a technique that is quite aggressive and subject to greater risk of pneumothorax. This bill cannot control the quality of education in these courses.

While I was in my clinic residency in acupuncture school, I had hundreds of hours of patient contact to gain experience needling patients of various sizes and health conditions affecting their musculoskeletal tissue.

PTs in these short courses only have the experience of working on other PT's, which leaves them woefully unprepared to treat the general population.

Imagine how preposterous it would sound if licensed acupuncturists wanted to take a few hours of training and treat patients using physical therapy modalities. This is no different.

If PTs are allowed to practice dry needling, my concern is that patients will be harmed and a valuable technique for pain relief will be maligned.

Thank you,
C. Cohen, L.Ac.