

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

It is deeply concerning that the state is considering permitting “dry needling” or “needle insertion” to be done by physical therapists with insufficient training. Both of these practices are dangerous without full training under professional acupuncturists, who have studied thousands of hours and practiced thousands of hours before taking board exams specific to acupuncture. Not even 100 hours is sufficient training for any individual to truly understand the scope of how to accurately treat anyone with acupuncture. If a physical therapist sees benefit in the practice and wants to do it for themselves, let them take the full training required to safely do the job.

Traditional acupuncturists study and practice this medical art for years, learning how all the points connect with one another to holistically treat individuals based on thousands of years of knowledge and research. This is not something that a single week-long seminar or course can adequately teach. There is no way that I would want a “professional” with only a week’s worth of training to operate on me in a surgical procedure.

Physical therapists are trained in Western ways of thought and treating injuries and maladies through physical motion. Acupuncture is an Eastern tradition that deals with an entirely different set of principles.

The Hippocratic Oath states that a physician swears to do no harm. When done without the proper training, “dry needling” can do far more harm than good. I am deeply concerned that this government is considering allowing ill-trained individuals to perform a medical practice that goes against this oath.