

Submitter: Serena Chiu
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My name is Serena Chiu and I am writing as a patient who regularly receives acupuncture as part of my healthcare. I want to express my strong opposition to allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling in Oregon.

Acupuncturists undergo thousands of hours of rigorous education and hands-on clinical training in anatomy, needling technique, and patient safety. Their licensure includes extensive supervised practice to ensure they can safely insert needles into the body, sometimes near sensitive structures like nerves, blood vessels, or organs. This level of training gives patients confidence and ensures public safety.

Dry needling, while sometimes described differently, is effectively acupuncture using similar tools and targeting similar points. However, physical therapists receive only a fraction of the training acupuncturists do—sometimes just a weekend course before needling patients. This is deeply concerning. Allowing PTs to perform invasive procedures with such limited preparation puts patients at risk for infections, nerve damage, punctured lungs, and other complications.

As someone who values acupuncture and has seen firsthand how precise and powerful it can be, I urge you to protect public safety by ensuring only thoroughly trained professionals are permitted to insert needles into patients. Acupuncturists are already qualified and licensed to provide this care. Expanding dry needling to PTs undermines established standards and could have harmful consequences.

Please oppose any legislation that would allow physical therapists to practice dry needling in Oregon.