

Submitter: David Vargas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

To the legislators,

I am currently a student of Chinese Medicine in Portland Oregon. To practice this profession I am accumulating a debt of a half a million dollars. I will not bore you with specifics. Acupuncture and its associated practices goes far beyond "needle insertion". However, in the United States, this is the general public's understanding of our practice. Acupuncturists are trained over the course of 3-4 years and accumulate a significant financial burden to obtain these skills. Passing this bill is a delegitimization of our knowledge and dedication to the practice. Passing a clean needle technique course is not an ample substitute to the years of training that are obtained through careful mentorship. I'm not against friendly competition. But this bill is a disservice to the acupuncture community and the public's interpretation of what constitutes proper technique and respect for the profession at its roots as a modality. Students put themselves at risk to make mistakes. Currently, a classmate is suffering from nerve damage due to improper technique. While, they are recovering and eager to continue learning, imagine of this was a patient? There are varied dynamics at play when it comes to this practice. Confidence does not replace the development of technique. The physical therapy community has its own scope of practice. There should be continued collaboration rather than consolidation.

These are strange times. I hope that this does not put further undue strain on our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

David