

Submitter: Amanda House

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposal or practice of allowing physical therapists to perform acupuncture. While I fully recognize the important role that physical therapists play in the healthcare system, I believe that the performance of acupuncture should remain within the scope of licensed acupuncturists or physicians who have completed rigorous, specialized training in this modality.

Acupuncture is a complex and ancient medical practice that requires a deep understanding of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), including meridian theory, diagnosis, needling techniques, and safety protocols. Licensed acupuncturists undergo thousands of hours of formal education and clinical training to ensure safe and effective treatment. In contrast, physical therapists receive limited or superficial instruction on acupuncture techniques, often through short certification programs that do not provide the depth of knowledge necessary for safe and competent practice.

Allowing physical therapists to perform acupuncture undermines patient safety and the integrity of both professions. Improperly administered acupuncture can result in serious complications such as infection, nerve damage, or organ puncture. Without comprehensive training, physical therapists may not possess the necessary skills to identify contraindications or manage adverse reactions appropriately.

Moreover, permitting physical therapists to practice acupuncture blurs the lines of professional boundaries and sets a troubling precedent for scope-of-practice expansion without adequate justification or educational standards. If public safety and patient outcomes are truly a priority, such procedures should only be performed by those who are fully trained and licensed in the specific discipline of acupuncture.

For these reasons, I urge you to uphold the distinction between physical therapy and acupuncture and to ensure that only qualified and licensed acupuncturists or appropriately trained physicians are permitted to perform acupuncture.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.