

Jeffrey Schmied
4913 NE 23rd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97211
schmiedjeff@gmail.com
(503) 505-1204

May 8, 2025

Testimony

Public Safety Concerns Regarding Oregon House Bill 3824 - Physical Therapist Scope of Practice

Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding House Bill 3824, which contains language that would expand the scope of practice for physical therapists to include acupuncture and other needle-based therapies without adequate training or education. Such a change represents a serious public health risk.

HB 3824 has been communicated as a bill to address vaccination administration by physical therapists. In reality, supporters of the bill wish to expand the scope of practice of physical therapists to include acupuncture without the required intensive training. The language in Section (9)(b) introduces "needle insertion" as a permitted treatment intervention within the physical therapy scope of practice. Such broad terminology would effectively permit physical therapists to practice acupuncture, more commonly referred to as "dry needling," without completing the rigorous education and training required of licensed acupuncturists.

I am currently completing a degree in acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. Prior to returning to school to pursue my degree, I spent 24 years in corporate information technology and cybersecurity. My 4 years of education in acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine have been the most intense theoretical and practical educational experience of my life, surpassing multiple years of education and technical training in computer programming, software, and cybersecurity defense.

Licensed acupuncturists typically complete:

- 4-5 years of specialized education
- 3,000+ hours of accredited training
- Extensive clinical supervision
- Comprehensive board examinations
- Continuing education requirements

In stark contrast, physical therapists seeking to perform "dry needling" or similar techniques often complete only a weekend course or brief certificate program of 50-100 hours before

performing invasive needle techniques on patients. This vast disparity in training presents serious patient safety concerns and undermines established healthcare standards.

The current language in HB 3824 represents an attempt to bypass proper legislative scrutiny and professional standards by embedding significant scope-of-practice changes within seemingly routine legislation. This tactic avoids the thorough debate, stakeholder input, and careful consideration that such a substantial change deserves.

I strongly urge you to:

- Amend the bill to specifically exclude acupuncture and related needle therapies from the physical therapy scope of practice
- Require that any future expansion of scope involving needle insertion undergo proper legislative review with input from all affected stakeholders
- Ensure that any healthcare professional performing acupuncture or similar techniques meets educational standards comparable to those required of licensed acupuncturists

Regardless of the treatment modality, Oregon's citizens deserve a high standard of care from qualified practitioners who have completed appropriate educational and clinical requirements.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and welcome the opportunity to discuss it further.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Schmied
National University of Natural Medicine
Graduating June 2025