

Submitter: Monique McKennon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
Testimony Opposing HB 3824
Chair and Members of the Committee:

In the same way that repeating a falsehood does not make it true, practicing acupuncture and calling it by another name does not change what it is: the practice of acupuncture.

Despite often being dismissed or undervalued by segments of the medical establishment, acupuncture is a comprehensive and time-tested medical system developed over millennia. It is built upon principles, techniques, and diagnostic methods that require years of rigorous, specialized training. The insertion of needles is not a simple mechanical act—it is a precise medical intervention grounded in an entirely distinct clinical framework.

HB 3824 would allow physical therapists to perform "needle insertion" without the extensive training required of licensed acupuncturists. This is not only a serious patient safety concern—given the risks of pneumothorax, nerve damage, and infection—but also a disservice to the public, who may be unaware that practitioners are not fully trained in the discipline they are now permitted to borrow from. Appropriating acupuncture's most essential method without requiring the corresponding depth of education does not expand care—it dilutes it and endangers it.

Moreover, this bill exemplifies a troubling trend: larger, more politically and economically powerful medical bodies seeking to expand their scope by adopting techniques from professions they often fail to respect. When physical therapists seek to incorporate acupuncture under another name, without the standards and accountability required of licensed acupuncturists, they not only risk patient safety—they erode the integrity of an entire profession.

Licensed acupuncturists invest thousands of hours and significant financial resources to become experts in their field. HB 3824 undermines that investment and sends a clear message that what acupuncturists do can be minimized, repackaged, and reassigned—without due consideration for the expertise involved. This is not integration; it is appropriation.

This is not just about turf—it is about standards, safety, and respect for professional boundaries. I urge you to oppose HB 3824 and to protect the public by ensuring that

only those with comprehensive, specialized training in acupuncture are allowed to perform its methods.

Let us respect the integrity of this ancient medicine and the professionals who have committed themselves to mastering it. Let us prioritize patient safety, uphold professional standards, and ensure that expanding access to care does not come at the cost of lowering it.