

Submitter: Jeaneth Villegas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeaneth Villegas and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3824, specifically the inclusion of “needle insertion” on page 3, line 37, which seeks to expand the scope of practice for physical therapists. I have worked in higher education administration at the College of Classical Chinese Medicine at the National University of Natural Medicine for the past 15 years. Our degree programs train students to become acupuncturists and Chinese medicine practitioners. The didactic courses and clinical training of our programs includes up to 3900 total hours of comprehensive and rigorous education. In contrast, dry needling certification courses for physical therapists typically range from just 20 to 100 hours. Lowering the training standard for such invasive procedures jeopardizes patient safety and devalues the protections currently in place.

This provision poses serious legal, ethical, and patient safety concerns. It also directly conflicts with existing Oregon law, undermines established regulatory oversight, and significantly lowers standards for invasive medical procedures. Needling is not a low-risk intervention. It often involves insertion into muscles, joints, and anatomical regions located near vital structures such as the lungs, major blood vessels, and nerves. Improper technique can cause serious complications—including pneumothorax, nerve damage, and vascular injury.

I respectfully urge the committee to amend HB 3824 and remove all references to “needle insertion.” Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting public safety in Oregon.