

Submitter: Brent Carmer  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to express serious concern about the proposal to allow physical therapists to perform needle insertion — also known as dry needling — without any required training. As someone who values safe, evidence-based healthcare, I find this deeply troubling.

We're not talking about massage or exercise therapy here. We're talking about inserting metal needles into muscle tissue, often near nerves, lungs, and other vulnerable structures. That's a medical procedure. If anyone is going to perform it, they should be trained — not just lightly trained, but thoroughly educated, tested, and licensed.

I've seen firsthand how precise and careful licensed acupuncturists are. Their training spans several years and thousands of hours. In contrast, physical therapists are asking for permission to perform this same invasive technique without meeting any comparable safety standard — and in this case, with no formal training at all. That's not just cutting corners; it's eliminating the corner entirely.

If this goes forward, patients will be at risk — often without even realizing that the person using needles on them hasn't been properly trained to do so. That's unacceptable.

I strongly urge you to protect the public and uphold Oregon's healthcare safety standards. Say no to untrained needle insertion.

Thank you,  
Brent Carmer