

Submitter:

Alvin Bautista

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

I strongly oppose HB 3824 and the proposed authorization of "needle insertion" — including vaccinations and dry needling — within the physical therapy scope of practice. These invasive procedure requires highly specific clinical training to ensure patient safety and prevent serious adverse outcomes such as pneumothorax, nerve injury, or infection.

Physical therapists, while skilled in musculoskeletal assessment and rehabilitation, do not receive adequate hands-on, needle-specific training in their programs to safely perform these procedures. Needle insertion demands precise, three-dimensional anatomical understanding and extensive supervised clinical practice, which are core elements of licensed acupuncture training.

In addition, this bill lacks clarity on who will regulate physical therapists performing needle insertion. Invasive procedures should not be introduced into a scope of practice without a clear regulatory framework, defined education requirements, certification standards, and oversight from a qualified body such as the Oregon Medical Board. Without this, patient safety will be compromised and accountability will be unclear.

For these reasons — public safety, insufficient training, and regulatory uncertainty — I urge you to oppose HB 3824 and protect Oregon's healthcare standards.