

Submitter:

Diedre Cain

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

As a longtime patient of acupuncture, I feel I am well equipped to voice my opposition to HB 3824 (most notably the inclusion of "needle insertion" referenced on Page 3, Line 37). The thought of a physical therapist inserting needles without having the knowledge and experience that acupuncturists have is terrifying. Poorly inserted needles could result in nerve damage, muscle injuries, or some other medical mishap. During my many acupuncture treatments over the years, I have observed first hand the skill and training needed to be an acupuncturist. It makes no sense to let someone who is not an educated and trained acupuncturist provide dry needling treatment. Before inserting a needle, an acupuncturist needs to consider a myriad of possible entry points, calculate proper angles of insertion, choose the thickness of needles, and determine the appropriate depth of insertion all while considering many aspects of a patient's overall health. I implore you as members of the Senate Health Care Committee to be informed about what would be at stake if under-trained people attempted to practice acupuncture. Please consider what is at stake when patients don't receive treatment from the appropriate medical provider. It makes no more sense for a physical therapist to provide acupuncture treatment than it does for an acupuncturist to assign physical therapy exercises. Both scenarios could result in physical damage to patients. Let the professionals in each field do their jobs - not other practitioners' jobs.