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Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3824, specifically regarding the inclusion of “needle insertion” (Page 3, Line 37) within the scope of physical therapy practice. This term effectively refers to dry needling—a technique that involves inserting acupuncture needles into the body to stimulate muscle or nerve tissue—and is functionally equivalent to acupuncture as defined under Oregon law.

As a patient who relies on acupuncture alongside other medical treatments, I deeply value the expertise, rigorous training, and focused care that licensed acupuncturists provide. Acupuncture offers significant health benefits, but as it gains wider public attention, it is critical that patients experience it under the care of the most thoroughly trained professionals. Allowing physical therapists, who have comparatively limited training in this area, to perform needle insertion risks undermining public trust and could compromise patient safety.

Moreover, expanding the physical therapy scope in this way creates legal and regulatory conflicts with existing Oregon law, which carefully defines and regulates acupuncture practice. This bill would bypass important licensure requirements and oversight mechanisms that were established specifically to protect patients and ensure high standards of care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to remove “needle insertion” from HB 3824. Doing so will uphold patient safety, maintain legal consistency, and preserve the integrity of Oregon’s professional licensing system.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your commitment to safeguarding public health.

Sincerely,

