

Submitter:

Brandon Anible

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

I am a Physical Therapist from Arkansas who's practiced for 6 years now and have been trained in dry needling. While practicing in Arkansas, I was able to help many patients with the use of dry needling and was very disappointed when I moved to Oregon and learned they do not allow PTs to provide this service. This has nothing to do with acquiring business as most patients I've seen in Oregon have not even heard of dry needling, nor are they seeking it. In fact, the percentage of patients (outpatient orthopedics) I see that I believe truly need dry needling is very low, like 1-2%. However, that 1-2% benefit greatly when they receive the appropriate treatment and techniques of dry needling. Most importantly, this is used as a stepping stone for more effective and robust interventions that are much more backed by the current state of evidence (i.e. therapeutic exercise). The goal in using dry needling is to assist in getting patients to the appropriate form and level exercise as quickly as possible so that patients do not become reliant on passive treatments such as dry needling or electrical stimulation.

Lastly, this is not about cutting corners in regards to training. I don't know a single PT that would like to put their license at risk by dry needling without a thorough background and understanding of the treatment. The first principle of do no harm still applies to all PTs.

At the core of this bill are principles of health management that would allow PTs to facilitate a healthier community in a safe manner. Hopefully Oregon will follow in the footsteps of the other 37 states that are supporting their communities by promoting such health principles through actions such as this bill.