

Submitter:

Elizabeth Bourgeois

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Bourgeois. I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to oppose HB 3824's addition of the words, "needle insertion," on page 3, line 37, which seeks to expand the scope of practice for physical therapists. The simplicity of this imposes serious legal, ethical, and patient safety concerns. It directly conflicts with existing Oregon law, undermines established regulatory oversight, and significantly lowers standards for invasive medical procedures.

Regarding current law: Under ORS 677.757(1)(a), acupuncture is defined as the stimulation of specific points on the body "by the insertion of needles." ORS 677.759 requires that only individuals licensed by the Oregon Medical Board may perform acupuncture. ORS 677.765 states that unlicensed practice constitutes the unauthorized practice of medicine. Therefore, dry needling—as described in HB 3824—is functionally identical to acupuncture under Oregon law. Hence, PTs would need to be regulated by the OMB to perform needle insertion to be legal under current statutes.

Without adequate training, safety concerns rise. Dry needling does not only encompass stimulating muscles. Adequate training provides a well rounded sense of contraindications, safety around organs, protecting against injury to nerves, etc....

This bill tries to shortcut the appropriate, and adequate, training needed for safety, and I urge you to remove 'needle insertion' from this bill until adequate measures can be created for its safety. Thank you.