

Submitter: Edgar A. Poke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
Testimony Opposing HB 3824 – Needle Insertion in Physical Therapy Scope of Practice

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

Once upon a midnight dreary, as I ponder weak and weary over this bill that seeks to permit the untrained hand to pierce the veil of flesh, a chill creeps upon my spine, as ominous as the raven perched above my chamber door.

What madness is this, to take the ancient art of acupuncture—a practice honed by scholars and healers through centuries of meticulous study—and render it a crude instrument in unskilled hands? The art of needling is no mere trifle; it is not to be wielded by those unacquainted with its delicate intricacies, for in the wrong hands, that slender shaft of steel may become a harbinger of dread, a grim reaper cloaked in the guise of a healer.

I have walked the labyrinth of clinical training, through corridors where shadows of pneumothorax and nerve damage lurk, where the slightest miscalculation of depth or angle can transform a simple needle into a spear of suffering. Wouldst thou entrust a sword to a child? Then why entrust a needle to one whose study of such perilous craft is but a passing glance in a sea of ignorance?

To permit physical therapists to insert needles without the exhaustive training required of acupuncturists is to invite the raven to roost upon the bust of Pallas. It is a portal to disaster, a darkened passage through which unholy complications may tread.

Consider the evidence, dark and dire as the ink upon this parchment:

In 36.7% of dry needling treatments, adverse events were reported, each one a grim testament to the folly of the untrained hand (Brady et al., PM&R, 2014).

A Polish study records pneumothorax and nerve palsy, afflictions borne of careless puncture (Majchrzycki et al., 2022).

And lo, a case of bilateral pneumothorax, a patient gasping at death's door, his chest pierced not by fate but by a needle (Sahin et al., 2020).

Thus, with each needle unschooled hands may raise, so too does the specter of suffering rise. Wouldst thou condemn thy constituents to such peril? Must we see the raven's shadow fall upon the practice of medicine, whispering "Nevermore" to the

standards we once held sacred?

Let not this dreadful bill proceed. Let the needle remain in the hands of those trained to wield it with precision, skill, and reverence for the flesh upon which it treads. For in such matters, safety and sanctity are not mere matters of law—they are a matter of life and death.

Sincerely,
Edgar Allan Poe,
Author and Eternal Watcher of Shadows