

Submitter:

Dr. Jessica Garcia PT DPT

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Hello, I am writing in support of HB 3824. I am a Doctor of Physical Therapy practicing in Austin, Texas who utilizes dry needling practices with my clients. I did a clinical rotation in Eugene, Oregon while in PT school and the number one thing patients are asking for right now is access to dry needling from a Doctor of Physical Therapy. Oregon is ONE of FOUR states left in the entire US that does not allow Physical Therapists to practice dry needling. The oppositions argument on safety is simply opinion as there has been ample evidence now over the past 5-10 years that proves the safety and efficacy of PTs safely performing dry needling practices. I argue that as health care providers and legislators, our jobs our to do whatever we can to HELP OUR PEOPLE. Gatekeeping the practice of using a thin monofilament needle is only stopping our people from getting the help they need. The practice of dry needling used by PTs is completely different in all aspects from Acupuncture although using a similar monofilament thin dry needle. My colleagues and I around the country that have been using dry needling safely are PROOF that THIS OPPOSITION IS NOT ABOUT SAFETY. IT IS ABOUT MONEY and not wanting another health profession to be able to "take their business" or "offer acupuncture without training". Bottom line is I help people DAILY get out of pain and improve their quality of life SAFELY with dry needling practices that I have had ample training for. The people of Oregon desperately want to be able to receive dry needling services and right now, they can't. At the end of the day, it's up to the individual professions to educate the public of the benefits and risks of their respective practices. The patients should be able to decide what care they want. Are you going to stand up for the people of Oregon? I urge you to really look at the argument of safety here, because the evidence presented is CLEAR.