

Submitter: Jamie Greenhut

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My name is Jamie Greenhut and as a former Oregon resident/licensed acupuncturist, I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 3824 due to its broad scope expansion for physical therapists (PTs). This raises serious concerns regarding patient safety, lack of regulatory oversight, and the erosion of established medical standards. Licensed acupuncturists in Oregon complete nearly 3,000 hours of education including hundreds of hours of physical, in-person, supervised clinical training in order to needle appropriately and with accurate, usable knowledge of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) systems of diagnoses/treatment. The insertion of a needle requires such intensive education and training as the risks involved, including pneumothorax, nerve trauma, vascular puncture and more, are serious injuries. Lowering the bar for training undermines this standard of care, and puts patients at unnecessary risk.

Patient safety is at the heart of this issue, which means that regulations are key. Expanding the scope of practice for physical therapists in Oregon is setting a dangerous legal and clinical precedent which prioritizes professional convenience over patient-centered policies. Furthermore, authorizing under-trained practitioners to perform invasive procedures contradicts Oregon's healthcare values and sends the wrong message: that we are willing to compromise safety and quality for convenience. That is not the Oregon way. Oregon is known for prioritizing patient safety, public oversight, and high professional standards. We do not sacrifice quality to appease special interests or allow unsafe shortcuts in healthcare. Maintaining our integrity means holding all healthcare providers to the same evidence-based, licensure-backed standards.

As a practitioner, I support collaboration between disciplines. In my own practice, I refer to physical therapists for rehabilitation and exercise therapy. In turn, I've had PTs refer patients to me for precise, anatomical needling when their approaches fell short. That's what collaboration looks like.

Allowing redundancy without equivalent training is not collaboration—it's a regulatory shortcut.

Respectfully, I urge the committee to reject HB 3824 in its current form. Oregon's healthcare system must remain rooted in safety, integrity, and qualified care—not shortcuts or deregulation.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to protecting the health of Oregonians.
Sincerely,

Jamie Greenhut
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Chicago, IL (formerly of Portland, OR)