

Submitter:

Cortney Short

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill seeks to expand the scope of physical therapist to include dry needling, Not just to prescribe DME. I have no problem with a physical therapist, prescribing braces or supports for a patient. That makes sense in their scope of practice. That is all well and good. Physical therapist are very skilled in many techniques and applications, Dry needling is not one of them. They do not have the education necessary to safely treat patients using dry needling. Acupuncture is based on a healthcare system that has been safe and effective for patients for hundreds of years. Dry needling is a knock off of acupuncture and cheapens the results that acupuncture can give. More importantly without the proper training, physical therapists performing dry needling would be putting patients at risk. If they do not fully understand how acupuncture works and what to avoid in order to avoid hurting a patient, you will see more people getting hurt. I have heard some people talk about dry needling as if it is just for managing pain, but in fact, we know that placing needles on the body has visceral effects as well. Unless there is a complete overhaul of what education is provided to PTs, it is unconscionable that you would potentially allow them to treat patients using a modality in which they are not skilled. The summary of this bill is misleading, and sneaking dry needling into the scope of practice for a group of providers that are not trained in it would be detrimental to patients.