

Submitter: Dan Summerfeldt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I do not understand why this bill has gotten so far. If you pass this bill, Physical Therapists (PT)s will:

1. Be able to do “needle insertion” under the guise of “dry needling”, a form an acupuncture. They are not qualified to do so, and believe that 20-100 hours of training over the course of a week or weekend is enough to be able to practice an ill-informed version of acupuncture. In contrast, Licensed Acupuncturists have to complete 2500-3500 hours of training over the course of at least 3-4 years full-time graduate school, with specifically 800-1000 hours of clinical supervision, to be able to take and pass three separate Board exams, to then earn the privilege of applying for an Acupuncture License which is governed by the Oregon Medical Board. PTs are not governed by the same Board (they have their own Board of Physical Therapy) and are therefore not held to the same standards that Acupuncturists, MDs, NDs, PAs are held to in regards to handling needle insertions. PTs are trying to bypass all of the education and regulation it takes for Acupuncturists to be able to practice this medicine.

The above cause is the main reason I believe this bill should not pass, but, the following are also concerning:

2. This bill has language that allow for PTs to adjust patients (infringing on Doctors of Chiropractors’ scope of practice).
3. Language to allow PTs to administer vaccines to certain population groups.
4. Language to allow PTs to complete yearly physical exams that are currently under Medical Doctors (MDs), Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) scope of practices.

The Oregon Medical Association has testified against this bill. Please, do not allow this.