

Dear Members of the House Healthcare Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 2996 where Acupuncturists are asking to take sole professional ownership of a tool namely the solid metal needle, and restrict other healthcare professionals from using it. Professions affected if this bill should pass could include the Medical, Naturopathic, Chiropractic, Nursing and Physical Therapy professions. A solid metal needle can be used by the Acupuncture profession for parts of their practice that utilize a needle, but the solid metal needle can also be used by the other above named professions for Myofascial Trigger Point Therapy ,also known as Dry Needling ,for damaged and dysfunctional areas of the muscular system from trauma. The performance of Dry Needling is a type of physical therapy and has been approved through the various state boards as being within the scope of their licentiates practice.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) who appears favorable to the practice of acupuncture defines it as such:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/cam/acupuncture/patient/page2>

1. What is acupuncture?

Acupuncture applies needles, heat, pressure, and other treatments to certain places **on the skin to cause a change in the physical functions of the body. The use of acupuncture is part of **traditional Chinese medicine** (TCM). TCM is a medical system that has been used for thousands of years to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease.**

Acupuncture is based on the belief that qi (vital energy) flows through the body along a network of paths, called meridians. Qi is said to affect a person's spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical condition. According to TCM, qi has two forces, yin and yang. Yin and yang are opposite forces that work together to form a whole. The forces of yin and yang depend on each other and are made from each other in an unending cycle, such as hot and cold, day and night, and health and disease. Nothing is ever all yin or all yang, both exist in all things, including people. Many of the major organs of the body are believed to be yin-yang pairs that must be in balance to be healthy. When a person's yin and yang are not in balance, qi can become blocked. Blocked qi causes pain, illness, or other health problems. TCM uses acupuncture, diet, herbal therapy, meditation, physical exercise, and massage to restore health by unblocking qi and correcting the balance of yin and yang within the person.

Most acupuncturists in the United States practice acupuncture according to the traditions of Chinese medicine. However, there are other types of acupuncture, including some used for medical treatment, that have different theories about meridians and acupoint locations.

The NCI is congruent with current Oregon law that defines acupuncture as such:

677.757 Definitions for ORS 677.757 to 677.770. As used in ORS 677.757 to 677.770:

(1)(a) “Acupuncture” means an **Oriental health care practice** used to promote health and to treat neurological, organic or functional disorders by the **stimulation of specific points ON the surface of the body** by the insertion of needles. “Acupuncture” includes the treatment method of moxibustion, as well as the use of electrical, thermal, mechanical or magnetic devices, with or without needles, to stimulate acupuncture points and acupuncture meridians and to induce acupuncture anesthesia or analgesia.

(b) The practice of acupuncture also includes the following modalities as authorized by the Oregon Medical Board:

- (A) Traditional and modern techniques of diagnosis and evaluation;
- (B) Oriental massage, exercise and related therapeutic methods; and
- (C) The use of Oriental pharmacopoeia, vitamins, minerals and dietary advice.

(2) “Oriental pharmacopoeia” means a list of herbs described in traditional Oriental texts commonly used in accredited schools of Oriental medicine if the texts are approved by the Oregon Medical Board. [1993 c.378 §1]

HB 2996 not only seeks to limit another professions legal right to utilize a solid metal needle but it also attempts to redefine Oregon acupuncture away from an ‘Oriental’ health care practice and to expand the acupuncture scope of practice to include specifically named modalities that they have no training for namely, manual therapy.

It is hard to imagine the motivation other than a turf battle and power grab for this proposed legislative bill but I believe this is what it is. This bill is ill planned and ill conceived, inappropriate and harmful to other professions and I ask that you please vote against it.

Yours truly,

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