

Submitter: Pam Zigler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Legislators,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and patient to express my strong opposition to any bill that would allow physical therapists in Oregon to perform “needle insertion,” often referred to as dry needling.

This is an invasive procedure that involves inserting needles into the body — often deeply — near nerves, muscles, and vital structures. I’ve received acupuncture treatments from licensed acupuncturists in Oregon, and I know that they are highly trained professionals who complete thousands of hours of education focused specifically on safe and effective needle techniques. This includes anatomy, needle depth, infection control, and how to avoid serious complications like punctured lungs or nerve injury.

In contrast, physical therapists are asking for permission to insert needles without training. If someone is going to use a needle to penetrate my body, I want them to have real, comprehensive training.

If a physical therapist wants to use acupuncture needles, they should be required to go through the same rigorous training and licensing process that acupuncturists do. Otherwise, patients are being put at risk without even realizing it.

Please protect the safety and trust of healthcare in Oregon by rejecting any effort to expand dry needling to providers who do not meet the same standards required of licensed acupuncturists.

Sincerely,
Pam Zigler