

Submitter: Michael Hernandez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am a fitness forward and evidence based Physical Therapist who strongly supports the passing of this bill. As a profession we are hamstrung and beholden to other practitioners by not having this valuable modality rightfully in our scope. As a medic in the army I was responsible for gaining and maintaining intravenous access for life saving medication and fluid support, inserting chest tubes and much more invasive medical procedures. As a physical therapist I have received much more education with significantly lower stakes (in the outpatient setting). The efficiency and evidence based nature of dry needling is, in my opinion, something that must be passed in order to best serve our patients. Healthcare is too expensive to hamstring providers because of politics and fear of competition by those that would oppose. If we are all searching for ways to help get patients healthier faster to improve their quality of life save them and/or the tax payers money then this is, again, a must pass bill.

The evidence is clear across the country for states that have already passed such bills that dry needling is both a safe and effective tool in the hands of Physical therapists. It would be a disservice to patients, the PT profession and this state to continue to limit proven methods from well trained and well meaning providers.

I hope this testimony and others like it will help decision makers understand that this is a serious issue that can either serve to improve the lives and healthcare of Oregonians dealing with musculoskeletal pain or continue to add barriers to progress by creating more hoops for patients to jump through making healthcare less and less equitable for those without the money or time to go see yet another practitioner for something that can be taken care of in any certified PT's office.

Regards

Michael Hernandez Pt, DPT