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On Behalf Of:  
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I have been a physical therapist for 15 years. During that time I have worked in a several different states. In 2017 I started working in Oregon as a contract PT and now I live and work here permanently. I was fairly shocked when I started working here when I reviewed the practice act and learned how out of date it was compared to other states. The biggest differences I noted that impacted patient outcomes was the ability for physical therapist to dry needle, certify a disability parking permit, and order DME for a patient.

Dry needling specifically is a personal passion of mine as I have been certified (extra training post doctorate) to dry needle since 2013 and have used this tool on hundreds if not thousands of individuals before starting to work in Oregon. I have slowly watched the map of the United States shift from a little over half of the states allowing dry needling to now only 4 states stand alone in NOT allowing it. Oregon is of course one of those states. Dry needling is one of many tools that can be used to treat joint and muscle dysfunction and more importantly, pain. I have seen dry needling do incredible things for people that suffer from acute and chronic conditions. I believe in it enough that I have sent patients to Idaho or Washington to be needled by colleagues. I spoke just today with one of my colleagues in Idaho. He shared with me that approximately half the individuals he dry needles come from the state of Oregon. Why would we withhold a treatment that could help someone improve their quality of life/function and diminish pain they are experiencing? Why would we not allow the people of Oregon another pathway to nonpharmacologic treatment of pain?

Physical therapists are highly trained individuals. We spent countless hours taking graduate level classes in neuroanatomy, gross anatomy with dissections, orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics, biomechanics, radiology, pharmacology, orthotics/prosthetics, and the list goes on and on. We are the experts of the mechanical body. Our physical therapy practice act should reflect our expertise and knowledge and our ability to expedite treatment and care for our patients. Currently, the people of Oregon are being underserved because of our practice act limitations.