

Submitter: Blake Underwood  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

As a student about to graduate from NUNM, this movement is insulting and coercive to the profession I am stepping into. Yes, Physical Therapists have a great working knowledge of anatomy, but the use of filiform needles requires extensive training to be used safely and effectively. The risk of pneumothorax, or lung puncture, increases dangerously when the person holding the needle has not been trained properly. Acupuncturists tend to be blamed for these incidences, but most of the time they are by PTs, Chiropractors, and other medical professionals who have not gone through at least 3 years of training in this way.

The PT associations have more resources than the Acupuncture associations, and it's sad that this kind of behavior occurs in the medical field. I am speaking of schoolyard bullying. To my knowledge, this is not the first time we have had to defend our scope of practice and I doubt it will be the last. The concept of "dry needling" vs "acupuncture" is a misnomer: dry needling IS orthopedic acupuncture. The same tools are used, the same precautions are used (hopefully), and the same results can be attained IF performed safely and with skill. There is no reason to believe that acupuncturists should be able to prescribe pharmaceuticals because it is not in our training to do so. Similarly, PTs should not be able to perform any modality that uses filiform needles for therapeutic purposes because it is not in their training to do so. Taking a weekend course and allowing medical professionals to perform dry needling/orthopedic acupuncture is dangerous and puts patients in harms way.

If PTs want to petition to give vaccines (when prescribed by a physician or primary care provider), that's fine by me. I also believe Acupuncturists should be able to do this as well. However, it should be specified under this bill that the use of filiform needles for therapeutic purposes is classified as acupuncture, and in order to perform acupuncture in Oregon, one must have a LAc, MD or DO (with qualified certifications), or another medical license otherwise specified in the legal language.

To whom it may concern, please help protect our profession. We are new in the United States and have some learning to do when it comes to agreeing on certain things within our community. This does slow our process in the marketplace. However, attempts to blatantly steal legal rights of our scope of practice should be disregarded (I believe with a warning), or at least come with a trade of some kind. Acting like adults is something I will always be in want for, so it seems.

Thank you for your time, and I hope I have at least opened up the possibility in your

mind that bullying in this way should be looked at with scrutiny instead of passed under the rug. Please consider changing the language around the PT's bill.