

Submitter: Kaat Brady  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

This bill violates the acupuncture scope of practice and puts the public at risk by allowing those without proper training to perform the act of acupuncture.

ORS 677.759(1) states:

“No person shall practice acupuncture without first obtaining a license to practice medicine and surgery or a license to practice acupuncture from the Oregon Medical Board...”

ORS 677.757(1)(a) defines acupuncture as:

“...the stimulation of specific points on the surface of the body by the insertion of needles.”

Before I could be licensed, I had 4 years of doctoral education that covered the rich theory of acupuncture, anatomy & physiology, proper needle technique, extensive training on needle safety, training on the clean practice of acupuncture, training on identifying and addressing red flag situation, and 3 years of clinical supervision. To be licensed I had to pass 3 boards that include western anatomy & physiology, acupuncture technique, and acupuncture theory. All of these boards tested me thoroughly on safety.

To include acupuncture in the Physical Therapist scope of practice is to over look the potential risks of acupuncture performed by an inadequately training individual and undermines the extensive training required by Acupuncturists before we can be licensed.

Physical therapy and acupuncture are modalities that work well together but should be practiced only by those with the proper training to do so. I enjoy working with my PT colleagues and understand that many respect the amount of training needed to be licensed as an acupuncturist. Patient's are best served by highly trained practitioners that work together but not by practitioners without proper training in the modality they are performing.

Please vote no on this bill to do right by patients.