

Submitter: Bradley Capron
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am writing to oppose this bill. As a licensed acupuncturist, this measure encroaches on our license, and is dismissive of the extensive training we receive, required by the state of Oregon, to provide safe and effective treatments. By far, 'dry needling' done by physical therapists causes more injury and discomfort due the limited amount of training they receive in this modality. In addition, despite our extensive training orthopedic assessments, corrective exercises, and more, our profession is denied the ability to perform those services and be paid for them, and I'm sure physical therapists would object in similar fashion. Our wide legal scope of medical practice as allowed by the Oregon Medical Board, is NOT respected or paid for by the majority of insurers, who only pay for treatment of pain. Allowing PT's and MD's to perform procedures that are right now exclusive to our profession, will have a severely detrimental impact to our ability to practice and make a living. Its simply unfair to allow PT's and MD's to co-opt the practice of acupuncture, by using semantics of 'dry needling' as being different from acupuncture(which it isn't as all dry needling techniques are a subset of acupuncture techniques), particularly when there is no reciprocity or open market of skills. We can't be seen as primary care -despite our legal license to treat a wide variety of complaints, and we can't be seen as physical therapy, despite our training in many of those skills. You can either have clearly defined scope of practice that is insulates and protects the careers and expensive education of individual modalities, or create a more open market that is less discriminating - for everyone. As it stands, this bill added this provision as a sneak in ride along. Do not undermine the profession of acupuncture in this way. There are more than enough of us to serve the community, and allowing PT's and MD's to practice this technique seriously impacts us in a profoundly negative way.