

Submitter: Kym Garrett
On Behalf Of: Kym Garrett
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My name is Kym Garrett and I live and practice acupuncture in Bend, OR. I am writing to express my opposition to HB3824.

I have been practicing acupuncture in Oregon since December 2005. I have a practice that specializes in oncology care for patients experiencing side effects to chemotherapy and radiation. As a licensed acupuncturist I have always collaborated with my patients' care teams and believe the best medicine for our patients is one in which we can work together for the best outcomes for our patients.

Medicine is collaborative, not redundant. No single provider can do everything safely or effectively. That is why we have medical specialists and why I believe it is my professional responsibility to refer my patients to other providers with specialties beyond my own when necessary. Collaborative care is the best care!

In the case of HB3824, dry needling is not a basic skill. As a licensed acupuncturist, I spent 4 years in graduate school, including untold numbers of clinical hours, learning how to safely and effectively perform acupuncture. Without sufficient training, outcomes suffer and the potential for harm increases. Expanding scope without proper safeguards compromises the integrity of both licensed acupuncturists and physical therapists as well as the safety of the public.

For the safety of the my patients and the citizens of Oregon, I oppose HB3824. Thank you for your time and consideration.