

May 8, 2025

Senate Committee On Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Members of the Committee,

I am Aubrey Leung, from Portland, and I am here in opposition to HB 3824. I believe the bill is written with the best of intentions, but there is an overstep in the inclusion of **'needle insertion'**, on page 3, line 37. In the practice of physical therapy, this line refers to **dry needling**, a treatment technique that uses acupuncture needles to penetrate skin and stimulate muscle or nerve tissue. Under Oregon law, this falls under the purview of acupuncture regulation.

Under **ORS 677.757(1)(a)**, acupuncture is explicitly defined as stimulation of specific points on the body by **'the insertion of needles'**. The statute further affirms that acupuncture includes the use of **electrical or mechanical devices with or without needles**, which are also included under common dry needling protocols.

Pursuant to **ORS 677.759**, acupuncture may only be practiced by those licensed under the **Oregon Medical Board**. Unauthorized use is considered **unauthorized practice of medicine (ORS 677.765)**.

HB 3824 therefore directly conflicts with established state law and proposes to allow non-OMB-regulated practitioners to perform a procedure that is clearly within the legal definition of acupuncture. In addition, this bypasses the **Acupuncture Advisory Committee** under **ORS 877.780-785**.

I am concerned that this is a danger to public health. The practice of dry needling is much less regulated than the practice of acupuncture, and has demonstrated significant risk of adverse effects on patients. In a major 2020 study, physical therapists conducting dry needling were found to have a **36.7%** per-treatment rate of adverse effects, with an average ratio of minor adverse effects of 0.53 - roughly one event for every two patients.

**Major complications of dry needling** requiring hospitalization or risking serious damage to patients' nerves occurred at a rate of **1 per 1024 treatments**. By contrast, trained acupuncture has a rate of major complications of **0.04-0.08 per 10,000 treatments**.

This difference is a result of the different training requirements. Physical therapists may practice dry needling with a short course, typically **20-100 hours**. By contrast, acupuncturists are required in Oregon to complete a course of **2500-3500 hours** with **800-1000 hours of supervised clinical education**. This increased educational requirement comes with large, quantifiable improvements to patient safety and health outcomes.

For these reasons, I ask that **HB 3824 be considered with the removal of the term**

**'needle insertion'**. It is inconsistent with established Oregon law, bypasses established oversight and licensure standards for public health, and compromises patient safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Aubrey Leung

### **Citations**

- ORS 677.757-677.785 : licensing and regulation of acupuncture in Oregon
- Boyce, David et al. "ADVERSE EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THERAPEUTIC DRY NEEDLING." *International journal of sports physical therapy* vol. 15,1 (2020): 103-113
- Huang, CC et al. "Acupuncture: A Review of the Safety and Adverse Events and the Strategy of Potential Risk Prevention." *American Journal of Chinese Medicine*, 2024;52(6):1555-1587