

Submitter: Elizabeth Marr
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
RE: Opposition to House Bill 3824

Dear Sen. Patterson and members of the Oregon Senate Healthcare Committee,

I strongly oppose BH 3824 as written. Including "needle insertion" in the Physical Therapy scope without clearly defining treatment context, or educational requirements to support the safety and efficacy of this context, opens the door to unsafe practices.

Acupuncturists have rigorous and comprehensive training to ensure patient safety and optimal outcomes for the patient. It is unclear how Bill 3824 will improve either patient outcomes or safety.

Aside from safety and quality of outcome, there are the additional factors of transparency and increased cost. Widening scope for PTs may create insurance ripple effects, likely reducing number of approved visits (due to increase in reimbursement cost) and increasing patient copays. This ultimately reduces overall healthcare access to patients needing care.

Transparency and patient education is also a factor. Patients, if getting treatment by a PT offering "needle insertion", may assume the safety and efficacy of treatment, and the training of the provider, is on par with other providers who are already licensed to treat with "needle insertion." The way bill 3824 is currently worded, that assumption could be grossly incorrect, misleading patients and affecting their choices and healing trajectory.

The vague language of Bill 3824 appears to be a bid to take a shortcut. I applaud continuing education and dual degrees, but increasing scope without a more precise framework is a shortcut, and most likely to adversely affect patient outcomes and safety.

Thank you for considering a "no" vote on HB 3824 in its current form.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Marr, DACM, LAc

