

Submitter: Rowan Everard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Hello, my name is Rowan and I'm an acupuncturist in Oregon. I am writing to oppose HB 3824, which would allow physical therapists to perform "dry needling" aka acupuncture. Acupuncture is a complete system of medicine, and each channels and points has specific functions throughout the body. This system requires years of training to learn how to use effectively. PTs do not have this training, and taking a weekend seminar is woefully insufficient. I have patients who have been to PTs for "dry needling", because they are doing it already despite it not being in their scope, and those patients almost uniformly have had a negative experience with it. They are afraid to try acupuncture again because of these experiences, and it gives my entire profession a bad name. Additionally, allowing untrained people to perform acupuncture devalues my entire profession and makes acupuncture seem like a simple technical procedure, rather than a complex system of medical care with thousands of years of practice and history. I know this background is not always well-understood by legislators and that my profession needs to be a better job of educating our representatives so that this fact is understood. Please give us the chance to do that work.

Thank you,

-Rowan Everard LAc, DACM