

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

June 26, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge
Secretary of the Senate

RE: Vote Explanation for House Bill 3824 B

Dear Secretary Rutledge,

I am writing to explain my vote against House Bill 3824 B, specifically regarding the provision expanding physical therapist scope of practice to include "needle insertion" or dry needling. While I recognize the potential benefits—including improved access to healthcare, pain management services, and the fact that 39 states currently permit this practice—I could not support this bill due to significant safety and regulatory concerns brought forward by constituents.

My primary concern centers on inadequate certification requirements. Dry needling courses for physical therapists typically consist of only 25-54 hours of training with minimal clinical experience, compared to the over 2,500 hours of formal education and rigorous board examinations required for licensed acupuncturists who perform similar needle-based procedures. This training disparity is troubling given that improper needling techniques can result in serious complications including pneumothorax, nerve damage, and tissue trauma. Additionally, constituent feedback has expressed concerns about delegating oversight of this invasive procedure to the Physical Therapy Licensing Board rather than utilizing neutral regulatory oversight.

The 2017 Oregon Attorney General opinion determining that dry needling does not fall within physical therapy scope of practice, combined with the 2013 Oregon Court of Appeals decision concluding that dry needling is not within chiropractic practice, demonstrates that Oregon has consistently recognized the need for proper regulatory frameworks for needle-based procedures. While I support expanding access to effective pain management treatments, I cannot vote for legislation that may compromise patient safety through inadequate training standards and regulatory oversight.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janeen Sollman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15