



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Tobias Read  
Secretary of the State  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3824

Dear Secretary Read,

Today, I am signing House Bill 3824. The bill updates the standards for physical therapist practice in the state of Oregon. The bill includes new provisions that provide the Oregon Board of Physical Therapy (Board) with greater ability to enforce and encourage competence and adherence to license requirements, including safe and ethical conduct in relation to a patient. These provisions, specifically sections 9(5), 17, and 21, strengthen public and patient protection.

Section 5 of House Bill 3824 permits physical therapists to perform dry needling as described by the Board by administrative rule, including the establishment of training requirements to ensure a physical therapist can competently perform dry needling. I write today to identify concerns with and outline a process for implementation of section 5.

Opponents of Section 5 shared concerns with my office that the proliferation of dry needling will undermine the acupuncture profession, that standards and definitions of dry needling vary across the country, and that acupuncturists complete considerable training hours and education necessary to perform safe needle insertion as a licensee of the Oregon Medical Board. Opponents also raised concerning questions about the cultural framing related to dry needling that are viewed as erroneous and offensive to the origins of acupuncture.

I also heard from many physical therapists who identified a desire to leverage all tools available to support patient recovery and pain management and who pointed to historic use of dry needling in physical therapy practice outside of Oregon.

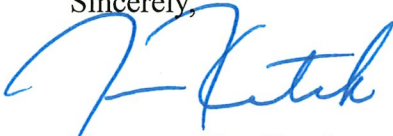
Interest in this section is outsized compared to the legislative direction provided. In response, I am directing the Board to actively consult with the Oregon Medical Board when adopting rules to ensure that the practice of dry needling has limited application to the practice of musculoskeletal pain and movement resolution and that an appropriate training standard is adopted. I am further directing the Board to prioritize rulemakings for all other sections of the

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bill and to coordinate with the Oregon Medical Board to establish appropriate stakeholder listening sessions, workgroups, or rule advisory committees related to Section 5 so that there is designated time and opportunity for all parties to fully participate.

Upon rules adoption by the Board, I am also directing the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Division of Financial Regulation to issue a bulletin to clarify that dry needling performed by a physical therapist does not constitute acupuncture for the purposes of Insurance Code requirements for coverage of acupuncture. Health plans will need to consider how and whether to include expanded services offered by physical therapists.

Sincerely,



Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Speaker of the House Julie Fahey  
Senate President Rob Wagner