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March 4, 2022

Dear Senators and Delegates:

I am writing to oppose Bill HB1016.

I am against this bill due to fact that I am concerned for the safety of the public and deeply concerned that the training received, by those in professions outside of acupuncture is grossly inadequate.

As a licensed Acupuncturist, I was required to go to school for 3 1/2-4 years and complete no less then 600-1,000 hours of needling under supervision. Once that training was completed I then had to submit proof to the state board of acupuncture, before the state would even consider granting me a license to practice.

How can weekend courses be enough to ensure the public is safe and not at risk for severe injury such as pneumothorax.

It also saddens me to see that other professions can continue to manipulate the public and the trust that they instill in medical professionals by simply renaming deep trigger point acupuncture and calling it Dry Needling. Dry Needling is Acupuncture and should be done by trained Acupuncturist who continue to take courses to stay up to date in safest techniques in needling and treating. Acupuncturist as a profession have worked hard to gain the publics trust by requiring a high standard of training and care in our field. Do NOT DIMINISH THIS TRAINING by continuing to allow non licensed Acupuncturist in other fields to Dry Needle. If Dry Needling or Acupuncture is warranted they need to refer as we often refer clients to other modalities we are not trained to perform.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

I OPPOSE HB 1016.

Sincerely,

Theresa Deramo

