

02/06/2023

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 232
Attention: Maryland Senate Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Senators,

As a resident of Queen Anne's County and a Maryland licensed acupuncturist I am asking that you vote no on SB 232, which seeks to expand the scope of practice of athletic trainers to include dry needling, another term for acupuncture popularized by physical therapists to skirt acupuncture licensure.

Athletic trainers are not healthcare providers in the traditional sense. Athletic trainers are not subject matter experts in acupuncture. I am a licensed acupuncturist as well as a certified phlebotomy technician. I am confident when I tell you as a subject matter expert in the diagnostic and therapeutic use of needles that the 80 hrs of training SB 232 proposes is insufficient to learn the fine motor skills needed to safely apply acupuncture/dry needling.

Acupuncture/dry needling is an invasive procedure that comes with serious risks to patient safety. Our great State acknowledged these risks when it created the Maryland Board of Acupuncture to oversee the issuance of licenses to qualified practitioners. Already, across the country and in Maryland, skin, blood and bone infections, lung punctures, lung collapse, nerve damage, paralysis, and loss of consortium have been reported in malpractice lawsuits arising from physical therapists performing acupuncture/dry needling.

Please help ensure patient safety by voting no on SB 232.

Sincerely,

Lee Andrew DeLorme, L.Ac., CPT
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