

Date: February 6, 2023

To: Senator Susan C. Lee and Representatives Ariana B. Kelly, Marc Korman, Sara Love,

I am an acupuncture patient and am writing today in opposition to the proposal to add dry needling to the scope of authorized treatments by Athletic Trainers in our state.

Athletic trainers in their recent petition have said that without adding dry needling to their scope, it will hinder their ability to provide the highest quality of care for their patients. However, their proposed training of a “4-day course with over 25 hours of hands on training that include physical therapists and chiropractors,” does not provide adequate training. Dry needling is essentially a limited form of acupuncture. By comparison, traditional Asian medicine practitioners, who are licensed acupuncturists, require a minimum of 3-4 years of didactic/clinical training in a whole health medical system that is practiced throughout the United States. In addition, MDs who perform acupuncture in the state and nationwide, receive 300 hours of training in it and have extensive and rigorous standards for their medical education, in general.

If athletic trainers and sports teams want to deliver the highest quality of care when performing needling techniques, they should consider hiring acupuncturists. Please do not grant the Athletic Trainers petition.

Georgeann Smale  
Bethesda resident