



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland State Board Acupuncture
4201 Patterson Avenue, 3rd floor
Baltimore, MD 21215

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: HB 172 - Health Occupations - Athletic Trainers - Dry Needling

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice-Chair Cullison:

At the favorable vote of HB172 at the Health and Government Operations Committee meeting on Friday, March 10th, it was represented by a legislator that the inclusion of certain amendments satisfied those opposing the bill, and that those parties now support the bill. This representation is *not* correct. The Board wanted to clarify that even with the inclusion of the corrections, the Board still opposes HB172. The Board stands by its position outlined in its letter to the committee that 80 hours of training isn't sufficient to grant approval for Athletic Trainers to insert needles in patients and presents a potential risk to patient safety.

I hope that this information clarifies the opposition's position in determining the fate of the legislation and its impact on the collective goal of protecting the public. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me Dr. Brandie Armijo, Board Chair at (240) 340-2956 or brandie.armijo@kp.org or Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, the Board's Executive Director at (443) 764-5925 or tiffany.smith-williams@maryland.org.

Sincerely,

Brandie Armijo, Board Chair

Brandie Armijo, DACM, Dipl. Ac(NCCAOM®), LPN, BSN, Clinical Acupuncturist, Board Chair

cc: Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, ED
David Finkler, Board Counsel