

03/20/2023

Re: HB0172 – UNFAVORABLE – Health Occupations – Licensed Athletic Trainers – Dry Needling Approval

To Chairwoman Joseline Pena-Melnyk & Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am contacting you as a Maryland constituent regarding Maryland SB0232 allowing athletic trainers to provide dry needling, and to express my strong opposition. Should this bill pass, and allow athletic trainers to use the appropriated technique described as dry needling, Maryland patients are at risk of grave harm including punctured lungs, infection, nerve damage, and more.

Multiple medical boards, professional organizations, and certifying bodies, including CMS, AMA, AAMA, AAPMR have concluded that not only is dry needling the practice of acupuncture, but that it's practice should be limited to providers with extensive training in the use of filiform needles such as trained physicians and licensed acupuncturists going back to 2012.

Physicians require 300 hours of additional training in order to perform acupuncture, and athletic trainers are requesting to be approved with an 80-hour course. Athletic trainers are also seeking to expand their scope to include an invasive procedure which they have no training for, without going through the necessary process of a change to their statute. Furthermore, the Medical Board has already testified that they have no mechanism in place to perform the required supervision of athletic trainers in the state of Maryland.

For all these reasons, I am asking you to oppose SB0232.

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