

From: Mary Teresa McFarland, McFarland Acupuncture, Member, Maryland Acupuncture Society

Written Testimony for SBO232

Position Unfavorable

Date: 3/20/2023

I am licensed to practice acupuncture in the state of Maryland and would like to submit the following as my written testimony regarding the danger of allowing Athletic Trainers perform Dry Needling with only 80 hours of training (40 didactic hours and 40 clinical hours). This proposed training pales in comparison to the 300 training hours for acupuncture that medical doctors (MDs) must undergo and the minimum of 2,385 didactic hours and 300 clinical treatments treatments in a three-year period as part of an accredited Master of Acupuncture graduate program.

Dry needling is a small part of the practice of acupuncture, but it can't safely be carried out unless the practitioner understands the theoretical and clinical ramifications of inserting needles in a patient. 80 hours of training won't be enough for athletic trainers to confidently perform dry needling in a way that won't prevent immediate injury or longer-term harm based on their needle location and action.

For the safety of the residents of Maryland and maintaining the high standards of licensed acupuncturists, please do not pass SBO232.

Sincerely,

Dr. Teresa McFarland, D.Ac., L.Ac, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM)

McFarland Acupuncture