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To Whom it May Concern:

This written testimony is in opposition to HB 0172 Athletic Trainers and Dry Needling.

Dry Needling is one form of acupuncture. In Maryland in order to provide acupuncture you must have an Acupuncture License. To receive an Acupuncture License you must have received a Masters Degree in Acupuncture which takes a minimum of 3 years to attain.

I am an acupuncturist in Maryland and I specialize in Orthopedic Acupuncture which is called Dry Needling in Western Medicine.

Athletic Trainers do not have to hold an advanced degree in any type of medical field to be licensed in Maryland. Athletic Trainers, who do not have advanced medical training, are requesting to be allowed to conduct an invasive medical procedure after attending a 4 day course.

Dry Needling/Acupuncture can be dangerous and death or permanent disability can result in poorly performed needling. It takes hundreds of hours of study and clinical supervision to understand proper needle location and insertion depth.

In Maryland, Acupuncturist must attend 3+ years of advanced medical training to preform this invasive procedure. In Maryland, Medical Doctors must attend an additional 300-hour course in Acupuncture to be able to provide acupuncture in Maryland but Athletic Trainers want to perform this invasive medical procedure after a 4 day course.

I urge you to consider the safety of your constituents.

I thank you for your consideration and time.

Janice Willis, LAc

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