

Acupuncturists: Here is a template message you can use for your emails and calls regarding the 2023 bill An Act Relative to the Safer Treatment of Pain. This bill would require specific standards for the practice of dry needling/trigger point acupuncture for any allied health professional.

Why do we need this? They are not regulating themselves and the AG and the allied health oversight board have allowed the practice while NOT in the scope of practice by regulation or legislation.

Joint Committee on Public Health

Chair Cyr: Julian.Cyr@MASenate.gov (617) 722-1570

Chair Decker: Marjorie.Decker@MAHouse.gov (617) 722-2130

Dear Chairs Cyr, Decker and members of the Joint Committee on Public Health,

As a licensed acupuncturist in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, I urge you to report H2270 & S1355, An Act Relative to Safer Treatment of Pain out of Committee favorably in the best interests of consumers in the Commonwealth.

This legislation would ensure that all providers providing pain treatment with acupuncture needles are properly trained, vetted, regulated and licensed and will require licensed health care providers to have adequate training and independent testing and continuing education to validate and maintain their skills.

1. Consumers have the right to assume that providers performing invasive procedures have been vetted and verified and examined to perform such procedures.
2. Consumers have the right and expectation that every provider inserting a needle into their body has this right and privilege through legislation - and through a Certified third party that has vetted, standardized, psychometrically verified exam.
3. Currently there is misleading and confusing information shared with consumers that interferes with understanding and patient safety. A certificate program is not a third party national Certification.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SLYLzlrn1F_57S57P19CpeSNL6FkhVxt/view?usp=drive_sdk
4. MDs, DOs and Licensed Acupuncturists all must meet such specifications to practice acupuncture/trigger point acupuncture and dry needling. Requirements for the AAMA: American Academy of Medical Acupuncture: <https://medicalacupuncture.org/for-physicians/membership/> Requirements for licensed acupuncturists in the Commonwealth: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/243-CMR-500-the-practice-of-acupunctur> to the American Board of Medical Acupuncture. This board requires 300 hours of training in an ABMA-approved program plus 500 additional medical acupuncture treatments and an exam in order to become board certified. Licensed acupuncturists must have 1305 acupuncture specific didactic hours, 660 clinical hours as well as pass 3 national psychometric exams for NCCAOM Certification. Both of these provider groups must participate in continuing education classes. There are no standardized didactic hours, clinical hours nor third party national psychometric exams for allied health professionals currently practicing on patients who may be unaware that there are no vetted standards for this practice. Patients are unaware that the practice of dry needling is not in the current scope for allied health professionals in the

Commonwealth by rule or law yet patients are mistakenly being told that it IS. Currently, allied health professionals practice outside regulation with 25-75 hours of inclusive didactic & clinical training and have no continuing education suggestion or requirement.

5. This bill establishes a specific, vetted set of requirements that would ensure both minimum competency and harm prevention from a standard set by the Commonwealth rather than by each individual company. These companies give their own Certificate examinations, not nationally vetted Certifications, which both confuses consumers and misrepresents a designation that does not exist.

Please keep the practice of insertion of needles safe for health care consumers in the Commonwealth. MDs, DOs and licensed acupuncturists have specific and vetted programs and exams to maintain competence and are also required to perform continuing education hours. Neither are currently required for allied health professionals practicing in a gray area that is neither in nor out of scope in the Commonwealth. While the DO has to pass a national vetted exam for the practice of exercises, there is currently no such requirement for the invasive procedure of inserting needles into patients and no specific guideline about what is and is not permitted.

Respectfully,

Please also send this message to your legislators. Find them here:
<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

Please ask your State Representative and State Senator to support this bill and its movement through committees to support their constituents.