

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

August 31, 2015, Room 317

Public Comment on whether rule on dry needling is within scope of practice

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jane Hamman. It is my privilege during legislative sessions to serve as the lobbyist for the Montana Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, for the last decade, since my retirement from the Governor's Office.

You have heard testimony that all significant acupuncture experts affirm dry needling is the practice of acupuncture. A few of them include:

- The World Health Organization
- American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA)
- American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Blue Ribbon Panel on Interprofessional Standards
- Accreditation Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), the sole agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education to set educational standards for the procedure and practice of the use of needles (acupuncture)
- National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), the only U.S. accredited certification organization that assures entry-level competency of individuals entering the profession of Acupuncture and Oriental (AOM) medicine
- Montana Board of Medical Examiners
- Montana Medical Association.

This is a pumpkin. We all have many years of life experiences--from Halloween to pumpkin pie--which affirm that this *is* a pumpkin. If you were to hear testimony from several hundred people that this is an orange, you would not support that conclusion because you know better.

You have heard considerable testimony that dry needling by physical therapists is something new and NOT acupuncture. Because perhaps only one or two of you have years of life experiences which affirm that the use of filiform needles to penetrate the skin really IS acupuncture, the rest of you may be inclined to go along to get along—to take the path of least resistance and just let the proposed rule move forward.

Please resist! Redefining a medical procedure by rule will not make it so—any more than redefining this pumpkin will make it an orange. Rather, please take affirmative action—as only this committee has the authority to do—pursuant to 2-4-306 subsection (4)(c), MCA, so that the proposed rule may be considered by the next regular session of the legislature and cannot be effective until the day after final adjournment of that session. Thank you.

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Economic Affairs Interim Committee
August 31 & September 1, 2015
Exhibit 18