

Pat Murdo, Lead Staff for the Economic Affairs Committee and  
All Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

My name is Dr. Patricia Holl. I am and have been the staff chiropractor at the Yellowstone Naturopathic Clinic in Billings for the past 15 years. I write this letter in response to the challenge set forth to prevent doctors of chiropractic from treating patients with dry needling. I have been a chiropractor for over 20 years, and have had the privilege to successfully treat patients by employing a multitude of integrative modalities including physiotherapy, cold laser, manipulation under anesthesia, and perhaps most importantly, co-management with doctors and health care professionals from a assemblage of professions.

About a year ago I became certified in dry needling shortly after it was approved for chiropractors, and pursuing this after having had the treatment myself with incredible results. I integrated this into my practice quickly, as I soon discovered successful and immediate clinical outcome. I soon pursued further training in the Master Dry Needling certification, and I am scheduled to attend more training next month.

In over 20 years of experience, no modality has had a greater and more comprehensive outcome than dry needling has had in my practice. I work at a highly integrative naturopathic facility which employs a multitude of therapeutic treatments, including naturopathic medicine, chiropractic, therapeutic massage, IV therapies, Regenerative Injection Therapies including STEM cell treatments, and yes, acupuncture.

As I'm sure you are aware by now, acupuncture and dry needling are different treatments with very different approaches. I have met many times with acupuncturists over the years and have had many acupuncture treatments, leaving me with a strong understanding of the eastern methodology involving meridians and chi. Dry needling works directly with injury sites, addressing the soft tissue including fascia, adhesions, fibrosis and scar tissue. It has become a critical aspect of my practice and in no way 'competes' with our patients being treated with acupuncture. I would be happy to provide testimonials from my patients regarding how their lives have improved specifically with this treatment.

I feel very strongly that any chiropractor or physical therapist treating patients with dry needling should adhere to the utmost standards and practices, and should be required to have appropriate certified training.

I respectfully ask the committee to maintain dry needling certification for the chiropractic profession as formally set forth in our scope of practice in Montana. I thank you for your time and consideration to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

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