

Dear Senator or Representative

Please support HD 3057 and SD 1305, "An Act Relative to the Safe Treatment of Pain" filed by Representative John Lawn in the House and Senator Julian Cyr which states: "Any insertion of a filiform or metal needle for therapeutic purpose is the practice of acupuncture." Please consider Co-Sponsoring this bill to keep the standards for acupuncture consistent and safe in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"Dry needling" is the unlicensed, unsafe and unregulated practice of acupuncture by practitioners not licensed by law to practice it. In the Commonwealth, acupuncture is only in the scope of practice for acupuncturists and medical doctors. Techniques used by those practicing dry needling are included in orthopedic acupuncture and therefore, those practicing this should adhere to the same consistent standards and laws for the practice of acupuncture in Massachusetts.

My acupuncturist has graduated from a nationally accredited (Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine) acupuncture program having a standardized program of classroom study, a minimum of 630 supervised clinical practice hours, and has passed exams to become board-certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), to become licensed to practice acupuncture in Massachusetts. The licensure is controlled by the Committee on Acupuncture in the Commonwealth under the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine.

Please help make sure anyone inserting a metal needle into a patient for therapeutic purposes is appropriately educated, tested and licensed to do so. I urge you to co-sponsor these bills and advocate for patient safety in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Respectfully,