

February 7, 2020

Rep. Nancy Barto
1700 West Washington Street
Capitol Complex - House, Room 316
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890

Dear Rep. Barto:

On behalf of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA), we are writing to share our concerns about **AZ S 1127**. This bill, which has passed the Senate and is now in the House, would allow athletic trainers to practice dry needling in Arizona.

We oppose the suggested amendment to Section 32-4101 as currently written because athletic trainers do not have the training and skillset to safely perform dry needling.

At present an individual may earn a bachelor's degree in athletic training which does not include instruction in invasive procedures such as dry needling. There are many aspects to consider when adding this technique to the athletic trainer's scope of practice such as anatomy of structures underlying the muscles, proper use and disposal of needles, prevention of infection, and how to handle complications to name a few.

If AZ S 1127 is enacted, we propose that a **300-hour program** be developed to ensure that athletic trainers receive adequate instruction in these and other important topics. **Physician acupuncturists and licensed acupuncturists can serve as consultants** to the Board of Athletic Training as it adopts standards of care, education parameters, and certification guidelines for performing dry needling.

The AAMA is a professional organization of allopathic and osteopathic physician acupuncturists. We are committed to safeguarding public health and safety by ensuring that all persons practicing any type of medicine, including acupuncture and dry needling, are properly trained and educated. It is imperative that courts and medical bodies maintain and preserve strict standards of education and training before any person undertakes inserting a needle into a patient. An ill-trained practitioner could, as a result of lack of education or ignorance, cause substantial medical injury.

We invite you to read the AAMA's Position Paper on Dry Needling (enclosed) to inform your thoughts on this legislation and next steps.

<https://www.medicalacupuncture.org/Portals/2/PDFs/DryNeedlingPolicyMar2017.pdf>

Thank you for your consideration. The AAMA applauds you and your colleagues for your ongoing efforts to protect the welfare of Arizona residents. Should you have questions about this particular issue, please reach out to us. We'd be happy to connect you with physician acupuncturists in Arizona whose perspectives may be of value as you consider this bill and health care initiatives for your constituents in the future.

Sincerely,

Jude L. Duher, MD, FAAMA

Freda Dreher, MD, FAAMA
President, American Academy of Medical Acupuncture



Donna M. Pittman, MD, FAAMA
Co-chair, Legislative Committee, American Academy of Medical Acupuncture



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Sen. Tony Navarrete
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Sen. Rebecca Rios
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Sen. Victoria Steele
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