

Mr. Chairman & Committee Members:

I am Paul Abadie representing myself; and, I am a board-member of the Texas Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine. I live and practice Integrative Therapy in Galveston. I am licensed to practice Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine under the Texas Medical Board & I am dually licensed in Physical Therapy under that Board. I have been in practice for 25 years: Licensed in PT for that long and in Acupuncture for 13 years. I am one of a handful of people in Texas who have taken the **time, energy, and money** to afford myself this dual licensure for the benefit of those who come to my clinic for some of their medical care needs.

You are aware that both of these licenses require extensive post-graduate study with completion of at least Masters Degrees of 3 or 4 years of study before sitting for board exams that allow for licensure. These requirements, as mandated by the state, are **time-consuming; expensive ... and stressful**.

My point here, Ladies & Gentlemen; is to highlight the rigorous path I have been down in my life to be **proficient** and **safe** working with human beings who are of **varying degrees of ill-health ... including Chronic Pain**. And further; **to highlight the farce** in allowing individuals without proper training – such as Chiropractors and Physical Therapists – to stick Acupuncture Needles in a human being ... and hope for the best.

As we've heard from some of my colleagues already, not only is the public being misled by those claiming skill and proficiency in Acupuncture **without adequate; or, sometimes virtually no training**; they may be at risk of injury or unwarranted discomfort with improper technique.

To wit, earlier this year I attended a PT presentation about acupuncture – **which is called “Dry Needling” by that profession simply to skirt the extensive training required to be licensed and deemed safe and proficient** – and the speaker, a young PT who had attended a weekend course in this “Dry Needling”, spoke as an expert to the audience of, say, 75 PTs. When the Q&A portion rolled around I was absolutely appalled that PTs thought that if one colleague had been to one of the weekend Dry Needling Seminars, that individual could come back to her clinic and teach fellow clinicians there!

Ladies & Gentlemen; Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine is not some medical practice that has no risks ... **just as there are in Physical Therapy or Chiropractics** – certainly every time we lay hands on; teach specific exercises and self-care regimens; or pierce the skin with an acupuncture needle the potential to do harm is there. But; it is much less of a concern when you know your practitioner is **adequately trained to ... Do No Harm.**

So allowing other oversight boards to regulate in a profession **they have no background or statute supporting them** is, not only an insult to those of us who’ve spent thousands of hours in training and tens of thousands of dollars; **but it is a disservice to the public who expects more.**

Thank you for your attention to all professionals under review of your Commission.