To the Committee on Acupuncture,

I propose the following language change to Section 243 CMR : BORIM Section 5.01:

(a) Acupuncture shall include but not be limited to:

after section 2.c. Electrical stimulation including electro-acupuncture, percutaneous and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation. Addition of following language addition:

Section 3:  The insertion of acupuncture needles for the purpose of therapeutic release constitutes the practice of acupuncture whether it is called acupuncture, dry needling, intramuscular manual stimulation, neurologic dry needling or by any other name.

This language protects the practice and scope of acupuncture. Some states which do not have this language in their practice act, have had physical therapists work to prevent acupuncturists from practicing dry needling which is one style of practicing acupuncture, clearly within our scope as acupuncturists, and therefore necessitating earning acupuncture license before using this powerful tool.

There is no requirement for continuing education hours for physical therapists and other Allied professionals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was brought up at several Board of Allied Health meetings that I attended, and the language used was that they were not going to pursue that at this time because it would put undue financial burden on their members. So people are not only practicing acupuncture without a license under the pseudonym of dry needling, they are doing so without any required continuing education hours, any supervision, and any oversight.

Respectfully,

Amy Mager MS, Lic.Ac.

MA Acupuncture License #349