



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Travis Oller, DC
Kansas Chiropractic Association
Legislative Committee Chair

Date: March 9, 2016

Subject: SB 490; Adding dry needling to the physical therapy scope of practice – Opposition
Testimony

My name is Travis Oller, DC, and I am pleased to present testimony on behalf of the Kansas Chiropractic Association in opposition to Senate Bill 490. I am a Chiropractic Doctor practicing in Topeka and serve as legislative chair of the KCA, the professional association representing licensed Chiropractors in Kansas. Doctors of Chiropractic together with Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy are the three licensed practitioners of the healing arts under the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts.

Many physical therapists have asserted that they are not practicing acupuncture when dry needling. They assert that much of the basic physiological and biomechanical knowledge that dry needling utilizes is taught as part of their core physical therapy education and that the specific dry needling skills are supplemental to that knowledge and not exclusive to acupuncture. However, the originators and proponents of dry needling acknowledge the origin and inspiration of this technique to be acupuncture. Many acupuncturists have argued that dry needling appears to be an acupuncture technique requiring minimal training that has been re-branded under a new name ("dry needling").

Whether dry needling is considered acupuncture depends on the definition of acupuncture. It is argued that trigger points do not correspond to acupuncture points or meridians, but rather correspond to the ad hoc category of 'a-shi' acupoints. It is important to note that this category of points is not necessarily distinct from other formal categories of acupoints.

In 1983, Janet Travell, et al. described trigger point locations as 92% in correspondence with known acupuncture points. In 2006, Peter T. Dorsher, acupuncturist at the Mayo Clinic, concludes that the two point systems are in over 90% agreement. In 2009, Dorsher and Fleckenstein conclude that the strong (up to 91%) consistency of the distributions of trigger point regions' referred pain patterns to acupuncture meridians provides evidence that trigger points

most likely represent the same physiological phenomenon as acupuncture points in the treatment of pain disorders. An article in Acupuncture Today (May 2011, p. 3, "Scope and Standards for Acupuncture: Dry Needling?") further corroborates the 92% correspondence of trigger points to acupuncture points. The argument that dry needling is not acupuncture does not stand on very firm grounds.

Our next concern is the base educational level of physical therapists in Kansas. Physical Therapists in Kansas have varied educational levels. The two physical therapy programs in Kansas recently transitioned from a Masters level PT (MsPT) program to a Doctors level PT (DPT) program; however, there are still physical therapists practicing in Kansas with a Bachelors level PT (BsPT.)

I have attached a webpage from ProHealth Systems¹ about the educational levels of various healthcare providers. You can see the number of hours of both academic and clinical hours for Doctors of Chiropractic, Doctors of Osteopathy, Doctors of Physical Therapy, and Medical Doctors.

Training for dry needling is rarely included in the core curriculum of accredited physical therapy programs. The post-graduate training is unregulated and largely performed by commercial, for-profit interests with no independent standards or accreditation.

One of the more popular training programs is run by KinetaCore even states on their website: "Immediately after completion of the Functional Dry Needling® Level 1 course you'll be able to perform this technique on your patients!" That is for a 27 hour, weekend course.

Finally, we are concerned that physical therapists do not have training or statutory authorization to diagnose all conditions. By statute, they are authorized only to make a "physical therapy" diagnosis. This leads to potential public health concerns due to an improper or missed diagnosis.

This bill, as written, would allow all PTs in Kansas to perform dry needling regardless of their educational level and without additional training in the practice of dry needling. I ask the committee to not pass this bill out of committee favorably, but if you do, at least add in language to require certification in proficiency in dry needling for all physical therapists that perform the procedure.

I will stand for questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis R. Allen, D.C.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Travis R. Oller, DC
Legislative Chair – Kansas Chiropractic Association
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¹ ProHealth Systems describes their mission as:

ProHealth is dedicated to the distribution of accurate, cutting edge, clinical information to current and future health care practitioners. We cover numerous multidisciplinary, evidence based topics including general medicine, chiropractic, naturopathic, physical therapy, massage therapy, manual medicine, sports medicine, orthopedics, neurology, physical assessment, diagnostic imaging, nutrition, and many others. Our ultimate goal is to create extremely functional resources that accurately and concisely represent issues seen in the daily activities of institutional & clinical health care providers.



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Professional Comparison

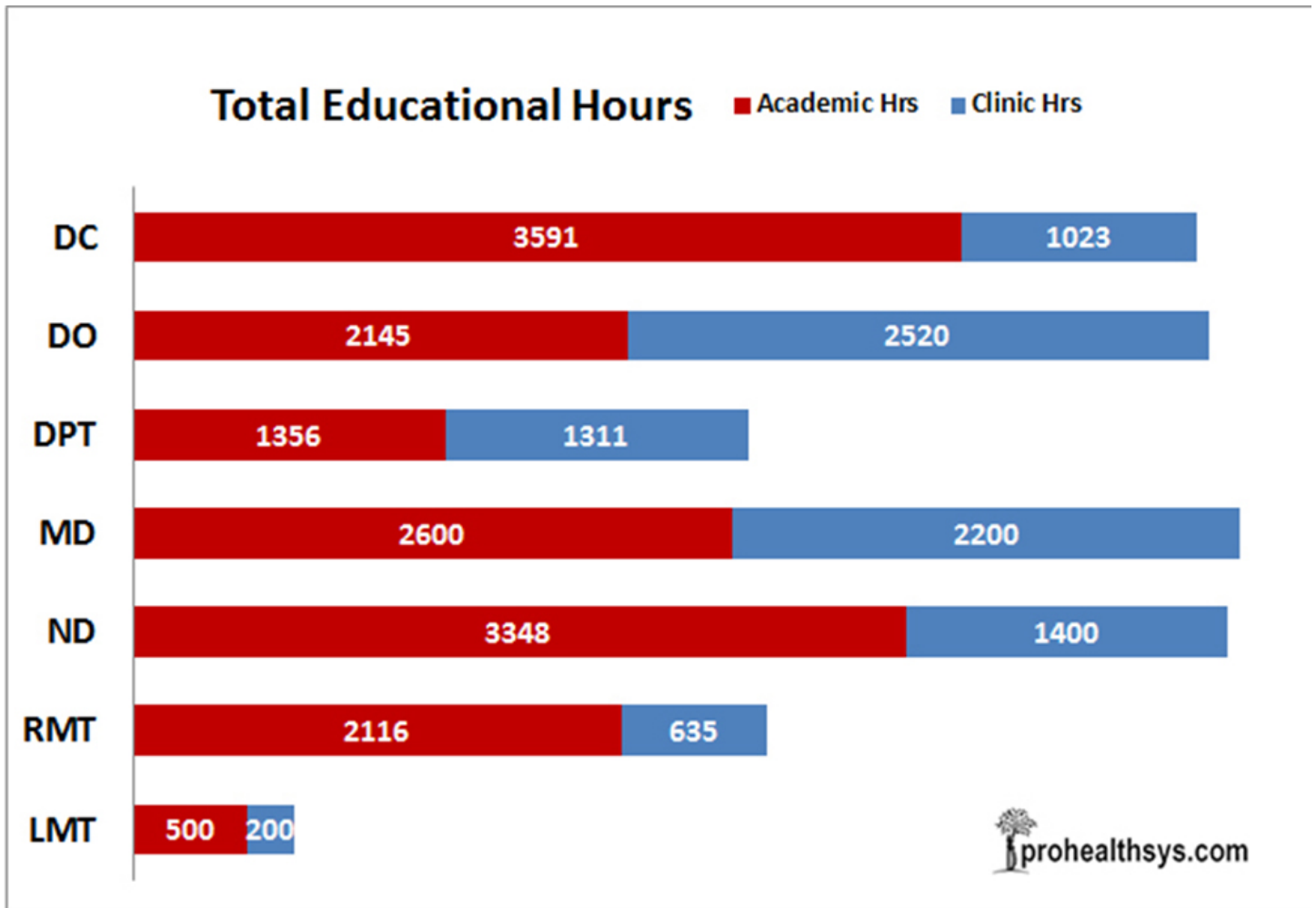
Professional Comparison

Professional are listed in alphabetical order for a of DC, DO, DPT, MD, ND, RMT (doctor level degrees require a Bachelor's level or equivalent for entry into program) – hours show content of core curriculum at institutions and does not take into individual extra certification or continuing educational hours.

Data can be independently verified and was collected from 2016 academic calendars among the top ranked programs in North America

- DC – Doctor of Chiropractic – (4614 hrs) University of Western States (<http://www.uws.edu/doctor-of-chiropractic/>)
- DO – Doctor of Osteopathy – (4600 hrs) Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (<http://tourocom.touro.edu/>)
- DPT – Doctor of Physical Therapy – (2667 hrs) University of Southern California (<http://pt.usc.edu/Education/Programs/PhysicalTherapy/DPT/Curriculum/>)
- MD – Medical Doctor – (4800 hrs) Yale School of Medicine (<http://medicine.yale.edu/index.aspx>)
- ND – Naturopathic Doctor – (4748 hrs) Boucher Institute (<http://www.binm.org/prospective-students/nd-program>)
- RMT – Registered Massage Therapist – (2751 hrs) Vancouver Career College (<http://www.vccollege.ca/l-ml-g-vancouver-career-college-2/registered-massage-therapy/?gclid=CJOju5in47sCFY2DQgoddhcAig>)

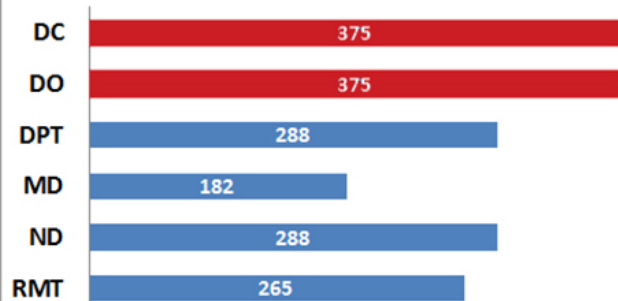
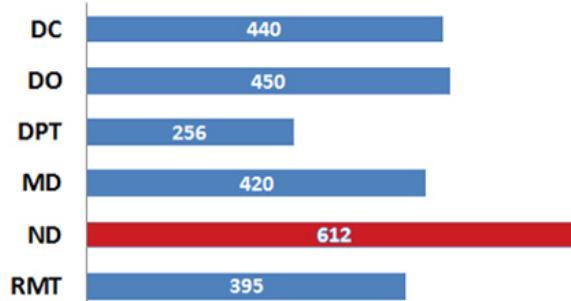
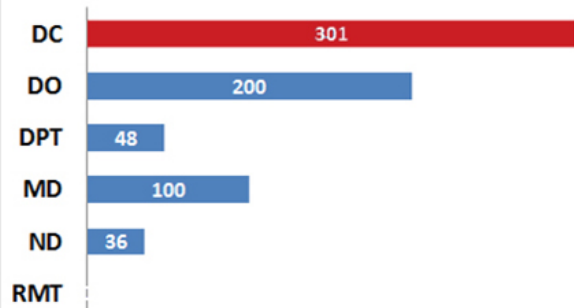
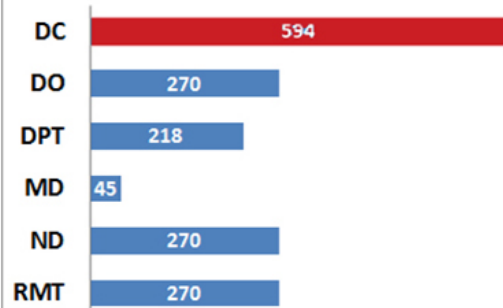
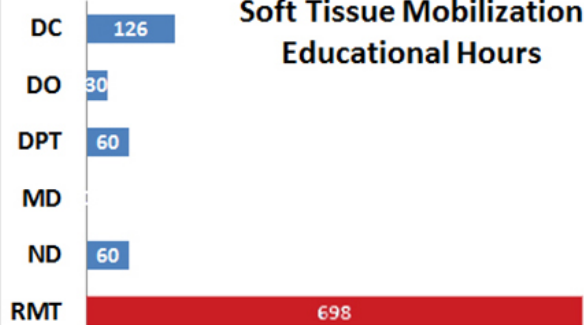
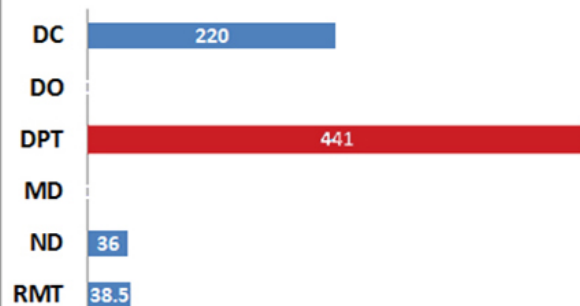
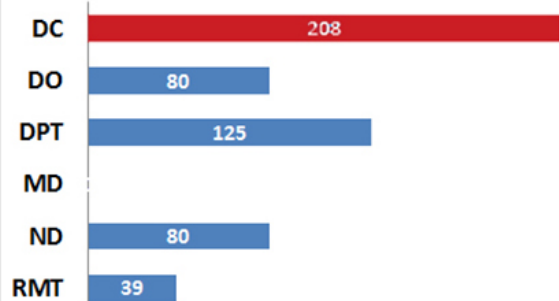
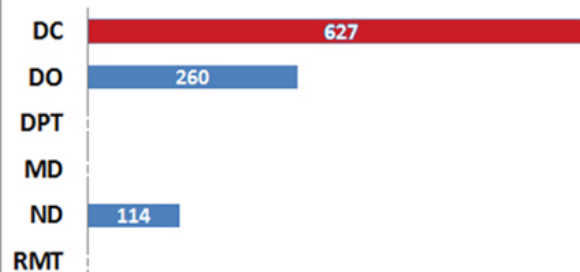
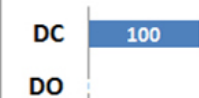
Specific programs at different institutions will vary; charts are provided for basic comparison and education priorities of each profession, and not imply any one profession is 'better' than another. Please recognize that while education plays a role in practice style, the charts below do not take into consideration post graduate education, practice preference or clinical specialization.

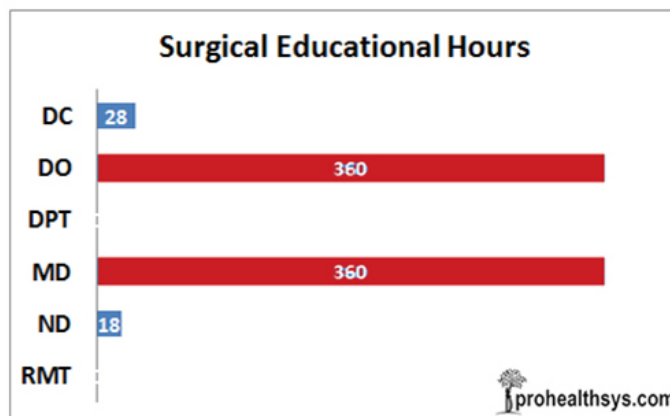
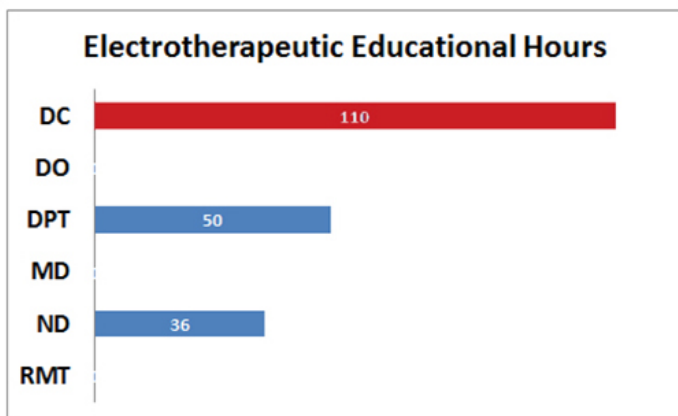


(<https://www.prohealthsys.com/central/>)

LMT – licensed massage therapist is a US designation with a large difference in basic educational requirements – 200-1000 hrs)

Break down by topic

Anatomy Education Hours**Physiology Education Hours****Diagnostic Imaging Hours****Orthopaedics Educational Hours****Soft Tissue Mobilization Educational Hours****Rehab & Exercise Educational Hours****Osseous Mobes Education Hours****Osseous Manipulation Education Hours****Nutrition & Botanicals Education Hours****Pharmacology Education Hours**



(<https://www.prohealthsys.com/central/>)

DC = Doctor of Chiropractic, DPT = Doctor of Physical Therapy, DO = Doctor of Osteopathy, MD = Medical Doctor, ND = Naturopathic Doctor, PT = Physical Therapist, RMT = Registered Massage Therapist, (doctor level degrees require a Bachelor's level or equivalent for entry into program) – hours show content of core curriculum at intuition and do not take into individual extra certification, continuing educational hours or practice time dedicated to each discipline.



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March 1, 2016

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