

**A TIME TO TAKE A STAND**  
**Our Help is Needed to Protect Physical Therapist Practice in North Carolina**

Last month, the North Carolina Acupuncture Licensing Board filed a lawsuit to make dry needling unavailable to patients who benefit from it in North Carolina. The members of the Acupuncture Board launched their lawsuit to prevent physical therapists from competing against acupuncturists. Their lawsuit seeks an order declaring that dry needling by physical therapists is the unauthorized practice of acupuncture—a Class 1 misdemeanor. In other words, the Acupuncture Board wants to make dry needling a crime.

On October 7, 2015, the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association's lawyers at Poyner Spruill LLP filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of NCPTA members and their patients. Their lawsuit quotes public records that show Acupuncture Board members using their government positions to stamp out dry needling—that is, to crush competition from physical therapists. Worse, the Acupuncture Board did these things at the specific request of the Acupuncture Association. The NCPTA lawsuit asks the federal courts to hold the Acupuncture Board and its members accountable. A copy of the lawsuit can be accessed by clicking [this link](#).

Whether or not you offer dry needling, this NCPTA initiative is about defending all of our patients' access to care. The lawsuit may have broad implications for scope-of-practice disputes nationwide. The claims in the lawsuit could apply to any licensing board comprised of professionals who compete with physical therapists and any intervention within the scope of practice of physical therapy. Moreover, because these claims involve federal law, they could impact physical therapists in all 50 states.

The NCPTA's initiative will showcase our steadfast commitment to providing our patients with the treatments they need. However, this type of legal action is expensive. The NCPTA needs your help in defending our patients' access to care. No matter how much or how little, every dollar donated to the NCPTA will support this important cause.

Please consider making a donation today. You can donate on the NCPTA's website by clicking [this link](#).