

Submitter: Thomas Melillo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2817

I am a practicing Doctor of Podiatric Medicine with over 20 years of experience here in Oregon. I support this bill clarifying the scope of practice to include the treatment of soft tissue disorders. Treatment of wounds of the foot and lower leg have been a staple of Podiatric Education and training for decades and have been a part of my every-day practice since I came to Oregon in 2001. I am three-year residency trained, however, I do not feel that a three-year residency should be a requirement for allowing DPM's to treat these conditions, as all DPM's are well-versed in these conditions. According to Medicare data, DPM's provide the largest volume of wound care, far more than any other specialty. Furthermore, there are no current requirements mandated for Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners to treat these conditions and they have less training during their schooling than DPM's.

Most important, however, is the need to allow for continued access to care for patients who truly have life and limb-threatening conditions. It seems wasteful, both in time and resources, to be able to treat one wound on the foot, but to have to refer a patient out for care of a similar wound on the lower leg. Even if this were the most prudent course of medical decision-making, the delays in access to care would put the patient at further risk.

Thank you.