

Submitter: Scott Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi:

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3824, a critical piece of legislation that modernizes the scope of practice for physical therapists in Oregon. As a licensed physical therapist, strength coach, and owner of a performance-based rehabilitation practice, I've seen firsthand the impact that progressive care models and clinical autonomy can have on patient outcomes, community health, and workforce retention. This bill represents a necessary step toward increasing access to high-quality, evidence-informed care for Oregonians. By authorizing physical therapists to prescribe durable medical equipment, administer select vaccines, and utilize tools such as needle insertion and sonography—modalities that are already standard in many other states—we empower providers to deliver care that is faster, more effective, and more responsive to real-time patient needs.

It is especially important to note that every state surrounding Oregon, with the exception of California, has adopted broader physical therapy practice acts. These expanded scopes allow therapists to fully utilize their training and evidence-based interventions without unnecessary administrative barriers. As a result, Oregon is at risk of losing talented, highly trained clinicians to neighboring states where they can practice at the top of their license. For Oregon-based clinics like ours, this creates a significant challenge in recruiting and retaining top-tier talent, particularly in rural and underserved regions.

HB 3824 is not about pushing boundaries—it's about aligning with national standards, embracing modern best practices, and ensuring that Oregon residents can access the same level of care as individuals in Washington, Idaho, Utah, or Nevada. This bill supports patient-centered care, reduces delays in treatment, and strengthens Oregon's healthcare workforce in a time when access and efficiency are more important than ever.

I urge you to support House Bill 3824 and help us create a future where Oregonians receive the best care possible, delivered by professionals who are empowered to use the full extent of their skills, education, and clinical judgment.

Professionally,

Scott Johnson, PT, OCS
Owner & Clinical Director
PhysioFitness Solutions