

Submitter: Sarah Borquist
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Borquist, and I am a Doctor of Physical Therapy with 15 years of clinical experience. I currently serve as a clinic director here in Oregon. I am writing today in strong and urgent support of HB 3824.

This legislation is not only necessary — it is overdue. HB 3824 will remove unnecessary barriers to care by allowing physical therapists to order imaging, submit for durable medical equipment (DME), and approve handicap placards when clinically appropriate. These are within the scope of our training and practice. The current system requires patients to navigate redundant and costly medical visits just to access services we are fully qualified to manage.

In practice, this means delayed treatment, higher costs for Medicare and private insurers, and added administrative burden on physicians — all of which are avoidable. As a provider on the front lines of musculoskeletal care, I see how these inefficiencies impact our patients every day.

Oregon is behind many states that have already empowered physical therapists with these responsibilities safely and effectively. It is time for our state to recognize the essential role of physical therapists in streamlining care and improving outcomes.

Please act now to support HB 3824. The health of our patients and the efficiency of our healthcare system depend on it.

Sincerely,
Sarah Borquist, PT, DPT
Clinic Director and Physical Therapist