

Submitter: Jesse Klein
On Behalf Of: Patient access to care.
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I'm writing in to express my support of HB 3824A. While some of these areas may be seen as contentious to other practitioners in the state, they are obviously beneficial to residents of Oregon. And if you remove inter-professional turf wars (like acupuncturists opposing DPT's ability to perform dry needling), what you get is better and more widespread access to care for Oregonians.

Let's start with Dry Needling, which is allowed in state practice acts of 46 states across the country. Further more, it's practiced safely, with very low incident of side effects and very high upside of improved treatment. It requires further training, which myself and my PT staff would do once allowed. We are contacted on a weekly basis asking if we do dry needling from potential clients who have heard from friends and family in other states how much it helped them.

Imaging- DPTs are trained in differential diagnosis; or knowing how to clinically test things to determine if a patient is appropriately in our office or should be referred somewhere else due to potential fracture, tear, tumor, etc. Currently, if we suspect something like this and want a patient to get imaging, we have to refer them back to their doctor- then they wait several weeks to get contacted back from the primary care provider, have to pay extra copays to get a visit just to be referred for the imaging..which they then also have to pay for. Passing this bill and allowing PTs to judiciously recommend imaging saves wait times, unclogs PCPs offices, and saves healthcare dollars!

I won't mention each aspect of this bill, but the last is protecting the title of Doctor of Physical Therapy and the DPT initials. If this were a bill supported by medical doctors and they had non doctors using the letters MD, there would be no question that it needs to be rectified. DPTs go through 7 years of school to obtain these degrees, and it should be protected from trainers and others using it to try to position themselves higher in the market.

Each of these sensible changes proposed in the bill has one main focus- improving care for Oregonians. They happen to have the positive side effects of lowering healthcare costs, decreasing wait times at doctor's offices, and making it clearer to people what they are getting when they see something like DPT advertised.

Please support and pass this measure so we can turn our full focus back to our main goal- helping Oregonians live better, healthier lives.