

Submitter: Caitlin Warner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi:

My name is Caitlin Warner, and I am an American Physical Therapy Association board certified specialist in Women's Health, who is a physical therapist in the greater Portland area. I'm happy to submit testimony in support of HB 3824, which will help improve Oregonian's access to physical therapy, enhance patient safety, improve accessibility, and reduce healthcare costs.

I am asking you to support HB 3824 for the following reasons:

- As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, passage of HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the vital role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve our patients.
- HB 3824A aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – in some cases, like dry needling, expanding care that is available in **46 others states**, but currently not available in Oregon.
- HB 3824A would allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important especially given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay.
- HB 3824A would improve access, particularly in rural communities, to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing PTs to order and interpret imaging. Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care.
- Ensures patient safety by protecting the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy or DPT" to ensure that only those holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are permitted to use this title and abbreviation.
- Enhances patient safety by adopting statutory language included in the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct to ensure that the PT licensing board has appropriate authority related to misconduct that is verbal, physical, and also through electronic means.

I urge you to support this legislation for the benefit of Oregonians in need.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration,
Caitlin Warner, PT, DPT, WCS