

Submitter: Asiya Akhgar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

To whom it may concern, I am writing as a physical therapist in support of this measure. I work and have always worked in outpatient orthopedic facilities where I've seen countless amounts of patients who have injured themselves and unnecessarily went to the emergency room for excess imaging which was not warranted, thus wasting resources and time. The patients are then prescribed DME but not taught how to use it properly, then eventually show up at a PT clinic weeks later with their original injury exacerbated by a lack of education from an ER provider who does not have the time nor the exact knowledge of how to guide the patient through their healing process. I've also had countless patients come to me first, but imaging was warranted though I had to refer them back to a physician who could then order the images. This leads to delayed treatment and recovery and puts undue stress on the already long waitlists at PCP offices. If physical therapists have worked to gain a doctoral degree to know how and when to screen for if imaging is warranted and how to utilize and teach their patients how to use DME, why is it that we are not allowed to prescribe either of these services? This is common sense practice to break this additional barrier in our already convoluted healthcare system.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Asiya Akhgar, PT/DPT, OCS