

Submitter: Rowan Lavelle  
On Behalf Of: Improved Patient Access to Care  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

The passage of HB 3824 is vitally important. It recognizes the crucial role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve patients.

HB 3824 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 other states, but currently not available in Oregon.

HB 3824 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 3824 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.

HB 3824 would also ensure 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.

HB 3824 would furthermore enhance 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.

In summary, I urge you to support HB 3824 in its entirety. Oregonians deserve access to safe, effective, evidence based care by licensed providers.