

Submitter: Jason Morris
On Behalf Of: Rural Oregon towns
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Key Messages:

Please feel free to personalize your testimony on why you support the PT Modernization Act (HB 3824A) and the impact it would have for you and the patients you serve. Some key messages that you might consider include:

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. Personally, passage of HB 3824 would improve my ability to serve patients by allowing us to fulfill our ability provide healthcare at the level we have been trained to. Oregon is behind the curve in aspects, such as image ordering and dry needling. We go through multiple years of doctoral training that includes extensive anatomical studies. Patients are often waiting for an X-ray, or MRI, for 2+ months due to backups to see PCPs or other specialists. We are not wanting to overload the system with unnecessary testing but rather make sure that appropriate testing is carried out in a timely manner. (Mabry LM, Severin R, Gisselman AS, Ross MD, Davenport TE, Young BA, Keil AP, Goss DL. Physical Therapists Are Routinely Performing the Requisite Skills to Directly Refer for Musculoskeletal Imaging: An Observational Study. J Man Manip Ther. 2022 Oct;30(5):261-272. doi: 10.1080/10669817.2022.2106729. Epub 2022 Aug 13. PMID: 35968741; PMCID: PMC9487956.)

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.

Over half of the PTs in the United States are currently dry needling. The minor adverse events that take place are similarly of risk for an MD,DO, or Acupuncturist. Major adverse events are not common at all. Further Medicare one of the most prominent insurance providers covers dry needling by a PT but not acupuncture. There are certain chronic pain patients of Medicare age not able to get covered by a highly successful pain management strategy versus taking a pain medication. (Gattie E, Cleland JA, Snodgrass S. A survey of American physical therapists' current practice of dry needling: Practice patterns and adverse events. Musculoskelet Sci Pract. 2020 Dec;50:102255. doi: 10.1016/j.msksp.2020.102255. Epub 2020 Sep 5. PMID: 32932050.)

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. As a rural provider this is high importance to me.

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.