

**Senate Committee on Health Care**

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear **Chair Patterson** and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

As a licensed dentist practicing in West Linn, Oregon, I evaluate and treat patients suffering from temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders and orofacial pain. I am writing in strong support of **HB 3824**, which modernizes the Physical Therapy Practice Act to reflect current clinical standards and improve patient access to collaborative, evidence-based care.

Having a temporomandibular disorder is a condition that straddles medicine and dentistry, so when patients do get to me for evaluation and treatment, they have usually seen many practitioners and spent many healthcare dollars with no help. Once I have evaluated them I often need to enlist the care of a physical therapist to treat their musculoskeletal impairments along with the dental aspect that I deliver. I would say at least 50% of my patients have both joint disorders and tendonitis. The physical therapist is the best practitioner to treat all of these conditions from one practitioner. Patients that have to go to many different practitioners to get musculoskeletal care is unnecessary, costly and frustrating for patients.

These patients benefit significantly from skilled interventions such as manual therapy, neuromuscular retraining, and **dry needling**—a technique performed with precision by specially trained PTs.

HB 3824 supports safe, patient-centered care by clearly authorizing physical therapists to perform dry needling, order imaging, and prescribe durable medical equipment when clinically indicated. These updates remove barriers to care, reduce delays, and allow PTs to practice in alignment with their doctoral-level training and national standards.

Many of my TMJ patients suffer for years before finding relief. Integrated, conservative treatment from physical therapists is often a turning point in their recovery. I urge your support of HB 3824 so that Oregon's PTs can continue delivering timely, effective care as part of a collaborative health care team.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Kim Wright, DMD, MAGD**

**Master, Academy of General Dentistry**  
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West Linn, Oregon