

Submitter: Amy Budwill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Committee Chairs:

I am an Oregon resident, a registered nurse, and a patient living with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (hEDS), a complex connective tissue disorder. I am writing to urge your support for HB3824.

As both a healthcare provider and a healthcare consumer, I understand the importance of timely, evidence-based care. Allowing physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging and durable medical equipment (DME) would improve access to appropriate treatment while reducing unnecessary delays and costs. In my experience, physical therapists are often the clinicians who spend the most direct time assessing my musculoskeletal issues and functional changes. They are well-trained—with doctoral-level education in anatomy, pathology, and clinical decision-making—and fully capable of determining when imaging or mobility support is needed.

Under the current system, if my PT recommends imaging or equipment like crutches or a brace, I must schedule a separate appointment with my PCP, urgent care, or even go to the ER just to get a signature. This adds cost, delay, and frustration—not only for patients like me with chronic and complex needs, but for anyone trying to access timely care in an overburdened healthcare system.

As a nurse, I believe in using every member of the healthcare team to the top of their scope. At least 13 other states already empower physical therapists to make these decisions, and Oregon should too.

Please support HB3824 to modernize our system and improve patient care across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Budwill, RN, BSN, OCN