

Dear Committee Chairs,

I am writing in support of HB 3824, as it will align Oregon with the national best practices to enhance patient safety, improve accessibility, and reduce healthcare costs. My name is Liz Ruegg and I am a PT, practicing in Oregon for close to 15 years. I have worked solely in private practice and 2 years ago started a health care collective to align with the above stated best practices I believe to be important. For the past 5 years I have participated in academia as an undergraduate anatomy and physiology instructor and adjunct professor for a graduate level doctor of physical therapy program.

I urge you to support HB 3824 for many important reasons:

- Allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay. This care also aligns with privileges that PTs have in 13 other states.
- Improve access 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.
- 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. The title Doctor of Physical Therapy and DPT should be reserved solely for those individuals who have gone through that level of rigorous training and education.
- 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.

Lastly and likely the most contentious, I urge you to bring Oregon in line with 46 other states and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy to make the practice of dry needling by a certified and licensed physical therapist legal in the state. Here are a few solid foundational reasons for moving this forward.

- Dry needling has been safely practiced by physical therapists since the 1990s with extremely low adverse event rates (less than 0.1% according to multiple large-scale studies), and PT liability insurers report no increased claims related to this practice.
- Physical therapists receive comprehensive doctoral-level anatomical training, with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy confirming that 88% of competencies required for safe dry needling are already included in accredited DPT curricula.
- Multiple Supreme Courts in other states have affirmed that dry needling is distinct from acupuncture and properly within physical therapy scope, recognizing that health professions naturally have overlapping practices that benefit patient choice.
- In our current healthcare climate where Oregonians struggle with access to care, allowing qualified physical therapists to perform dry needling would increase availability

of this evidence-based intervention that has been incorporated into clinical practice guidelines.

In summary, I urge you to support HB3824 in its entirety. Oregonians deserve access to safe, effective, evidence based care by licensed providers.

Thank you for your time,

Liz Ruegg DPT