

Submitter: Linzay Shirahama

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

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 others states, but currently not available in Oregon. Dry needling has not and will not become the primary treatment practice of physical therapists and is not the same as acupuncture and therefore, not a threat to acupuncturists.

HB 3824 is also not a threat to healthcare providers who already order imaging. Reminder that physical therapists are doctors and direct access providers, therefore can be the first health care provider to see a patient. Approving the scope of practice for physical therapists to order imaging broadens access to care for patients. It reduces the number of medical visits for patients and means that patients do not need to make an appointment with another healthcare provider to request imaging when it is clear to a physical therapist that imaging is needed, which saves money for patients and insurance companies, and eliminates an extra trip to a medical provider. This is particularly important for people living in rural areas. Efficiency of diagnosis that needs to be verified through imaging is significant for accurately identifying treatment options and helping people progress after an injury.

This bill also 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.

Additionally, HB3824 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.

I strongly support approval of HB3824 and encourage others to as well.