

Submitter:	Ashley Byram
On Behalf Of:	Advocating for patient care
Committee:	Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3824

My name is Ashley Byram , PT, DPT, and I am a practicing physical therapist in Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB3824, a critical bill that modernizes the physical therapy scope of practice to better reflect our education, training, and the needs of our patients.

This bill addresses SEVERAL essential updates to our profession. First, it affirms our ability to safely and effectively perform dry needling—a technique well within the scope of our advanced musculoskeletal education and clinical training. Opposition to this practice misrepresents the rigorous standards we uphold as doctoral-level providers. As physical therapists, we undergo extensive training in differential diagnosis, anatomy, and neuromusculoskeletal care. HB3824 recognizes and supports the level of clinical reasoning and responsibility that our profession already assumes daily. Dry needling should not be exclusive to acupuncturists because it is a distinct, evidence-based intervention rooted in Western medical principles—not traditional Chinese medicine. This technique is used to treat neuromuscular dysfunction and pain as part of a comprehensive rehabilitation plan. No healthcare profession holds exclusive rights to a specific tool or technique—what matters is the provider’s competence and training. Much like exercise prescription or joint mobilization, dry needling is a tool that can be used by multiple licensed professionals who are adequately trained. Restricting its use to acupuncturists limits patient access to care, delays appropriate treatment, and fragments the healthcare system unnecessarily.

Moreover, many states allow physical therapists to perform dry needling without increased reports of adverse events, supporting its safety and efficacy when used by competent providers.

Equally important is the provision allowing physical therapists to order imaging when clinically appropriate. PTs are trained extensively in differential diagnosis and the identification of red flags. The ability to order imaging would streamline care, reduce unnecessary delays, lower healthcare costs, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for our patients. It ensures that patients receive timely interventions without barriers or redundant referrals. The bill also includes consumer protection measures through term protection for “Physical Therapy,” ensuring that only licensed professionals represent themselves as such. This is vital to maintaining the integrity of our profession and protecting patients from being misled by those offering substandard or unregulated services under similar terminology. Similarly, it accurately reflects our level of training and helps patients make informed decisions about their care providers.

HB3824 is about modernizing our profession in a way that enhances public safety, improves access to appropriate care, and empowers physical therapists to practice at the top of their training. I strongly urge you to pass this legislation and help Oregon physical therapists better serve their communities.

Sincerely  
Ashley Byram PT, DPT