

Submitter: Cindy McLean
On Behalf Of: Physical Therapy
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Oregon Senate Health Care Committee,

As an RN, IV therapy, intervascular and interventional radiology certified nurse in Redmond, Oregon, at St. Charles Hospital I whole heartedly support HB 3824, Modernization of Physical Therapy Act. The training, safety, competence and efficacy of Physical Therapy evaluations and training far surpass the allowed practice in Oregon. I have personally witnessed physical therapists evaluate acute fractures and recommend radiology appropriately at soccer games, basketball tournaments, rodeos and at the request of multiple young athletes in my community and throughout the state. If PTs could order imaging it would have saved dozens of urgent care and/or emergency room visits, and thousands of dollars for these athletes and their families. The hospital systems in Central Oregon and most places in the state are struggling to meet the demands of patients with emergencies and life threatening conditions; it's only logical to distribute the burdens to order imaging to qualified professionals such as physical therapists.

As a patient, I have experienced tremendous benefits from dry needling by a physical therapist for head aches, hip pain, spine mobility, plantar fasciitis, back pain, pelvic pain, and sacroiliac pain. As a nurse who handles needles everyday I am 100% confident in the safety, training, and skills I have experienced by PT's dry needling. I have also had several acupuncture treatments, none of which came close to benefitting me like DN by a PT. In fact I feel much more confident in the anatomical understanding of neuromuscular conditions by PTs than that of acupuncturists I have met and been treated by. There is an urgent need in Oregon help people manage pain better, the opioid crisis is still a problem. Providing immediate non pharmaceutical pain relief prevents initial exposure and use of narcotics, it's irresponsible to not provide dry needling by PT's from this argument alone. We need access to this treatment in Oregon! It is ridiculous that we have to travel out of state for this care.

Again, as a 20+ year nurse, patient, mother, coach, and concerned citizen in Oregon, I urge you to pass and expedite implementing HB 3824 as soon as possible.

Cynthia "Cindy McLean, RN #20044211OR