

Greetings Esteemed Leaders,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide **written testimony in support of HB 3824**. My name is Ryan Jacobson. I serve as a full tenured professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at George Fox University, teaching pediatrics and conducting research toward improving health outcomes for children and families for the past 12 years. In addition to that academic role, I am also a board certified pediatric clinical specialist in physical therapy, working with children and their families for the past 25 years in various inpatient and outpatient settings, both rural and urban. I am sharing my written testimony today based in particular on my experience working as a physical therapist in (1) rural home-based early intervention, and (2) the primary care pediatrics medical home alongside pediatricians.

Based on my experience working in multiple Oregon communities, HB 3824 is an extremely important step in improving timely access to care for all patients, including the infants, children and adolescents I and fellow pediatric physical therapists serve across our state. Over the past decade, Oregon has seen an increasing shortage of healthcare providers in pediatric care professions, including primary care providers, allied health professionals (like physical therapists), and mental health services. In the pediatric primary care space—particularly outside of the Portland metropolitan area—provider panels balloon to try and meet the needs of children and families, often comprising $\geq 70\%$ of children on state insurance. This is true for the physician-owned pediatrician practice in Salem, OR, with whom I currently partner to provide embedded, same-day physical therapy care to their patients. This patient-centered medical home model is intended to get the the *right care* to the *right child/family* at the *right time*, as soon as the concern is identified. For physical therapy embedded in pediatrics, this means immediate evaluation, initial treatment, and screening for referral for children with musculoskeletal and developmental needs. It also means that my pediatrician colleagues trust me to manage care for these patients following their “warm handoff” to physical therapy, resulting in more efficient, effective care and improved access.

This encompasses the necessity of passing HB 3824—to leverage the full scope of physical therapist training in Oregon in order that our patients get better, more timely access to health care. Each aspect of this bill seeks to effect better health outcomes for Oregonians. This is especially true for patients outside of urban regions, and really everyone outside of the city of Portland. Even in Salem, patients experience delayed or lack of access to specialty care, health and wellness services, and mental health services. HB 3824 is about fully empowering physical therapists to contribute fully in meeting the health challenges Oregonians face, leveraging our nationally recognized scope of practice and extensive training in health management.

I appreciate your consideration on HB 3824 and its importance in contributing to improved health and wellness outcomes for Oregonians. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, clarifications, and/or comments around my support for HB 3824. Thank you for your service to our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Jacobson', followed by the printed text 'PT, DPT, PCS'.

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