

Submitter: Julieann Berg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

As a licensed physical therapist practicing in California, I strongly support legislation that allows physical therapists in Oregon to order imaging, provide dry needling services, and order durable medical equipment (DME). These capabilities are essential for delivering timely, efficient, and evidence-based care.

Physical therapists are highly trained in musculoskeletal evaluation and possess the clinical expertise to identify fractures, determine appropriate DME needs, and select the most effective soft tissue techniques for each individual. Restricting our ability to fully manage these aspects of care creates unnecessary delays, increases healthcare costs, and places additional burdens on patients and the broader medical system.

Regarding dry needling, it is important to distinguish the physical therapist's approach from that of traditional acupuncture. While acupuncture targets meridian points based on Chinese medicine, physical therapists use dry needling to address specific neuromuscular and soft tissue impairments—an approach that is supported by a growing body of evidence showing significant benefit to patient outcomes.

Allowing physical therapists to fully utilize these tools aligns with our training and licensure, improves continuity of care, and ensures patients receive the most appropriate interventions without unnecessary referrals or delays.