

Submitter:	Anthony Rocklin
On Behalf Of:	Improved Patient Access to Care
Committee:	Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3824

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, passage of HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the vital role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve our patients. Personally, passage of HB 3824 would improve my ability to serve patients by allowing me to perform dry needling which is already approved in 46 states. Oregon is only 1 of 4 not allowed to do this and Oregon has one of the highest standards of PT care in the USA. Dry needling is NOT acupuncture. They are so wildly different once you learn about each of them. It's like saying being a chef and a surgeon are the same thing because they both use knives. They are wildly different. Additionally, to be able to order simple Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and disabled parking permits would save everyone so much time, money and pain. It would allow our medical physicians to focus on more important aspects of their work such as diagnosing and treating patients who are ill or injured. We don't need to take up their time signing off on these types of things, especially, since the PT's know the patients way, way better as it relates to their physical and functional capacity. We have Doctoral level education with specific training in evaluation, diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal impairments. Whenever, I ask the physicians to please order an x-ray or sign off on a piece of equipment, they always say something like, "Of course Tony, I rely heavily on you to keep me up to date on the patient's needs. You know them better than I do. Thanks for the great teamwork." Then the patient has to schedule an appointment with the doctor which can take 4-6 weeks and then the doc has to take up a whole appointment for this.

HB 3824A 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.

HB 3824A would allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important especially given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay.

HB 3824A would improve access, particularly in rural communities, to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing PTs to order and interpret imaging. Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care.

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.

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.

Thank you very much for your time and attention,

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