

Submitter: Kathryn OBrien
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

When I first graduated with a doctorate in physical therapy, I moved just north of you to Washington state. I quickly learned how restrictive their practice act was, and realized this was not a place I could grow as a practitioner.

From that experience, I now review state practice acts before considering a place to live. I tell all my students to do so as well as a clinical instructor. I loved Portland when I visited, but after reviewing the Oregon practice act, I knew I couldn't live there. I chose Colorado, which has a robust state practice act pushing us close to the top of our scope.

I'm an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist certified in dry needling, thrust joint manipulation, and sports manual therapy as well as emergency medical response. I'm planning to sit for a second specialty this year. I've seen dry needling make a huge difference in my patients' care from managing chronic migraines to addressing post surgical scar tissue. I've seen our ability to order imaging in Colorado not only vastly decrease cost/burden on our medical system. As a direct access practitioner, I am better able to help athletes on the sidelines should there be an injury or emergency.

There is so much to love about Oregon— your nature, your art, and your people. But because of your state practice act, practitioners like myself at the top of our scope will not move there. Patients will have less access to highly trained professionals because the act ties our hands and makes us less effective.

For the benefit of your residents, please pass this act to not only increase access if care through your existing practitioners, but to bring highly skilled professionals to your lovely state.

Thank you for your time,
Kathryn O'Brien, PT, DPT, OCS