

Submitter: brian chambers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
To Whom it may concern:

My name is Brian Chambers, I practice in Eastern Oregon, as a independent physical therapy practice since 2001. I possess a Doctor of Physical Therapy, certification manual therapy and certified concussion specialist for assessment and treatment of concussion injury. I have been asked to provide testimony for the need of PT's have clear power to order and interrupt imaging.

I have been serving my community as a medical provider and providing medical services for local community college and high school athletics for athletic events. This service has proven to be invaluable to the HS and CC, as many of the sports require musculoskeletal specialist on site for the game to occur. I have had multiple occasions where a athlete falls on a wrist and/or sprains and ankle that need to be x-rayed / imaged to rule out a fracture. Currently, my only way to legally handle this is to send them to the local Emergency Room, where the wait can be hours long and the medical bill for a X-Ray can extremity expensive for these patients. The cost at ER for an exam and ankle x-ray is currently \$2500 where costs at local Imaging clinic is \$250. But currently, the out patient imaging office is not able to take orders from PT's. If physical therapists were permitted to order images this would provide a huge cost savings as well much quicker services for patients. In addition, without the ability to order imaging this place additional stress and risk on my license to potentially have a athlete play who shouldn't play due to that I cannot order an x-ray to rule out fracture. In addition, my practice is a direct assess clinic and evaluates and treatment many patients each month under direct access who come in without a referral/prescription. Some of these patients come in for spinal manipulation and others have more rehabilitation needs and some of these patients need imaging performed to more fully assess the injured area. Again these pt's currently must go to urgent care or ER, to obtain needed imaging, which again increases health care costs and wait time. Some of these patients do not have a primary care provider and other patients it can take weeks to obtain a rx from their provider to get an image, further postponing a start to their physical therapy. Many states have passed this change, and have shown to be safe and effective use of PTs to improved health care access and reduce costs. By allowing PT's imaging ability, this will improve safety to clients who see PT's under direct access, and will decrease patient wait time and access to needed imaging, and decrease liability of PT's who are providing pt care under direct access.

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