

Submitter: Kara Schuft
On Behalf Of: Whole Body Health Physical Therapy
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

My name is Kara Schuft, and I am a licensed physical therapist practicing in Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 3824A, the PT Modernization Act.

As a healthcare provider in this state, I see firsthand the delays and barriers that patients face in accessing timely, effective care. HB 3824A would modernize the Oregon Physical Therapy Practice Act—bringing it in line with the education, training, and national standards of practice for Doctors of Physical Therapy across the country.

The changes proposed in this bill—authorizing PTs to order diagnostic imaging, certify disability placards, prescribe durable medical equipment, perform dry needling, and protect the professional designation of DPT—would directly improve patient care. These updates would also reduce unnecessary bottlenecks in an already overburdened healthcare system by expanding what PTs can do independently, allowing us to serve patients more efficiently and comprehensively.

In particular, allowing PTs to perform dry needling would give patients access to a treatment that has proven benefits for pain relief and neuromuscular dysfunction—an option that many have experienced in other states but cannot receive here. I have seen how effective this tool can be when used appropriately by trained professionals, and I urge the committee not to let outdated limitations stand in the way of evidence-based practice and patient choice.

The time to update Oregon's physical therapy regulations is long overdue. HB 3824A is not only common-sense legislation—it's a critical step toward improving health outcomes, reducing delays, and empowering providers to practice to the full extent of their training.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge your support of HB 3824A.

Sincerely,
Kara Schuft, PT, DPT
Whole Body Health Physical Therapy
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Portland, Oregon