

Submitter: Allison OConnor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

As a resident of Oregon and a healthcare consumer, I urge you to support HB3824. Granting physical therapists the authority to order diagnostic imaging would significantly enhance access to care and lead to quicker, more efficient diagnoses.

Currently, myself and many other physical therapy patients often face long delays waiting to see a specialist solely to obtain a prescription for imaging. This process not only consumes valuable time but also results in considerable out-of-pocket costs. Allowing my physical therapist, who is already deeply familiar with my condition, to order necessary imaging directly would streamline care, reduce delays, and lower costs.

At least 13 other states already authorize physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging. Given their doctoral-level education in anatomy, pathology, and differential diagnosis, this is a logical and safe extension of their practice, aligning with national standards.

In addition, I strongly urge you to support the inclusion of dry needling as a recognized treatment option within physical therapy practice in Oregon. From personal experience, I know how effective dry needling can be for musculoskeletal injuries. I have close family members that benefit greatly from dry needling for specific musculoskeletal injuries in their PT sessions in other states. Unfortunately, this valuable modality has not been available to me through my physical therapist due to current restrictions.

Dry needling, as practiced by physical therapists, is distinct from traditional acupuncture. It is an evidence-based technique grounded in Western medical principles and movement science. When administered by a trained PT, it offers precise, targeted care and ongoing clinical assessment—potentially accelerating recovery and improving outcomes.

Finally, HB3824 also ensures that only licensed Doctors of Physical Therapy may use the title "Doctor" or the abbreviation "DPT." This clarity improves patient safety by preventing misuse of professional titles and helping patients accurately understand who is providing their care.

As an Oregonian seeking effective, timely, and affordable care, I ask that you support these important updates to physical therapy practice. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Allison O'Connor