

Submitter:

Jacob Hodges

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

As a practicing physical therapist in Oregon, the passage of HB 3824 is crucial as it acknowledges the essential role PTs play in the state's healthcare system, along with the rigorous training, education, and experience they bring to patient care.

Personally, the enactment of HB 3824 would enhance my ability to serve patients by improving timely access to care and expanding treatment options to align with national standards. This bill aligns physical therapy practice in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, allowing for expanded care options, such as dry needling, which are available in 46 other states but currently not in Oregon. Additionally, HB 3824A would empower physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application, a critical capability given Oregon's provider shortage, ensuring patients receive necessary accommodations promptly. The bill also aims to improve access and timeliness of patient imaging, particularly in rural areas, by permitting PTs to order and interpret imaging, a measure already adopted by over 10 other states to reduce patient costs and enhance outcomes. Furthermore, it safeguards patient safety by restricting the use of the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy" or "DPT" to those with a doctoral degree in physical therapy. Lastly, it enhances patient safety by incorporating statutory language from the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct, ensuring the PT licensing board has the appropriate authority to address misconduct in verbal, physical, and electronic forms.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jacob Hodges, PT, DPT