

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

My name is Brionna Sims and I am a PTA in Portland. I wanted to bring your attention to a bill that's being heard in the Oregon Senate Health Committee on Tuesday, May 6th - Oregon House Bill 3824 (PT Modernization Act). Passing this act could significantly decrease your workload and improve your patient outcomes. This legislation would also align Oregon's PT practice with 46 other states, allowing us to practice to the full extent of our extensive doctoral level training, while reducing unnecessary administrative burden on healthcare providers like you.

Passing the PT Modernization Act (HB 3824A) would authorize Oregon physical therapists to do the following:

Order diagnostic imaging,

Certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application

Prescribe durable medical equipment (DME),

Allow dry needling as part of our treatment toolbox

Provide term protection for the use of DPT (right now, personal trainers use "DPT" as "dynamic personal trainer" versus our degree, which is "doctorate in physical therapy." This can be very confusing for patients.

Physical Therapist Education & Qualifications:

Now, if you're wondering whether we have the knowledge and education to safely do all of the above, here's a quick summary of what our entry level training requirements include:

As Doctors of Physical Therapy (DPT), we complete rigorous doctoral-level training specifically designed for musculoskeletal assessment and management. Our education includes:

Advanced Clinical Reasoning: Comprehensive training in differential diagnosis, clinical pathology, and evidence-based assessment frameworks

Validated Clinical Decision Rules for Imaging: Specific education in applying protocols like the Ottawa Ankle Rules, Pittsburgh Knee Rules, Canadian C-Spine Rules, and NEXUS criteria to determine when imaging is warranted

Anatomical Expertise: Extensive training in musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, and cardiovascular systems through multiple cadaver labs and clinical practicums

Imaging Interpretation: Coursework in diagnostic imaging, including radiography, MRI, CT, and ultrasound, with training in recognizing red flags requiring immediate physician referral

Proven Safety Record: In the 46 other states where PTs have expanded their scope to accurately reflect our education and licensure requirements, safety data shows extremely low adverse event rates.

Why HB 3824 Benefits You and Your Patients:

As you navigate increasing patient loads with limited time and resources, the PT

Modernization Act (HB 3824) would align Oregon with most other states while offering significant benefits:

Reduced Administrative Workload: Eliminate processing routine PT requests for imaging and DME (including obtaining prior authorization).

Reclaimed Appointment Slots: Remove unnecessary follow-up appointments solely for ordering imaging or DME

Faster Patient Care: Enable immediate care without mandatory delays waiting for physician appointments

Lower Healthcare Costs: Eliminate duplicate visits and reduce system-wide spending

Optimized Expertise Allocation: Focus your time on complex medical issues rather than routine musculoskeletal approvals.

Real-World Impact - The "Suspected Fracture" Scenario:

Here's an example of how passing this bill would affect our patients: right now, when I evaluate a patient with a suspected ankle fracture:

Current Process: I must refer to you to order them both DME (crutches) and radiographs, they schedule and wait for an appointment with you, you order the same imaging and DME I would have ordered, delaying diagnosis by days or weeks. Patient suffers.

With HB 3824: I could order appropriate imaging and DME immediately (taking the lengthy administrative process of obtaining prior auth off your plate, too). This would expedite diagnosis and treatment, and dramatically improve patient outcomes while alleviating unnecessary burden on your already busy schedule.