

Submitter: Kealani Ontai
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Committee Chairs:

I am an Oregon resident and I am urging you to support HB3824. As a healthcare consumer in the state, allowing physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging would improve access to care and facilitate prompt diagnosis. In order to obtain needed diagnostic imaging, I have to wait weeks and often months to see a specialist, usually at a high cost to me, just to hopefully obtain a prescription for imaging, and then wait additional weeks or months to then obtain the images. Obtaining a prescription for imaging directly from my physical therapist would save me time and money. At least 13 other states already allow physical therapists to provide this level of care and given their doctoral level training in anatomy, pathology, and differential diagnosis, it is appropriate and in-line with established practice.

Additionally, I ask that you support the specific inclusion for PT's in Oregon to include dry needling in their toolkit of treatment options. I know how effective this modality is for treating the types of injuries based on other PT's experience in other states, and I wish it was an option that my PT would have been able to use for me. As a health care consumer in Oregon, my choices for receiving care that I know is effective for me is limited by restricting the practice of dry needling to exclude licensed physical therapists.

The precision and ongoing assessment offered by PT-led dry needling—already practiced safely and effectively outside Oregon—could have assisted in a quicker recovery with lasting relief. This evidence-based approach differs significantly from traditional Chinese acupuncture, as it is embedded within a broader Western medicine based movement-science framework.