

Testimony In Support of House Bill 3824
Michelle Percey, Oregon Resident and Patient

Honorable members of the committee,

My name is Michelle, and I am a local elementary school teacher and proud Oregonian here to respectfully urge your full support for House Bill 3824.

Several years ago, I suffered from two debilitating injuries: a shoulder impingement and Achilles tendon problems. Everyday movements, such as reaching for a cup in a cabinet or walking across a parking lot, became sources of frustration and pain. It was a Doctor of Physical Therapy who properly diagnosed the issues, created a focused treatment plan, and guided me through a full recovery without surgery, opioids, or endless referrals. Today, thanks to the expertise of my DPT, I live an active, pain-free life.

This bill, House Bill 3824, simply recognizes the level of skill and training that DPTs already possess and allows them to fully use it for the benefit of Oregon patients.

Importantly, for many patients, especially those in rural communities, underserved areas, or those who do not regularly see a physician, physical therapists are often the most accessible and consistent healthcare providers they interact with. DPTs are on the front lines of patient care, offering not just rehabilitation, but critical diagnosis, prevention, and wellness services.

By expanding their ability to prescribe necessary medical equipment, administer vaccines, and use dry needling techniques, House Bill 3824 will remove costly and unnecessary barriers that delay treatment and increase healthcare expenses. Patients will no longer be forced to navigate additional appointments, referrals, and redundant paperwork just to access services their DPTs are already fully qualified to provide. Streamlining access to care will directly benefit patients, especially those who may otherwise forgo treatment due to inconvenience, cost, or confusion.

Critically, many of the updates proposed in this bill, including dry needling, prescribing durable medical equipment, administering certain vaccines, and using sonographic imaging, are already standard practice for physical therapists in most other states across the country. These policies have already helped millions of patients elsewhere by:

- Expanding access to essential treatments,
- Reducing wait times and unnecessary specialist referrals,
- Lowering healthcare costs by streamlining care,
- And improving patient outcomes through faster, more precise interventions.

Oregon patients deserve the same level of modern, efficient, patient-centered care that patients receive in the majority of the United States. Every day that we delay this progress is a day that Oregonians suffer from slower recoveries, more expensive care, and limited options.

We are not asking to take a gamble on something untested. The practices outlined in House Bill 3824 are proven, safe, and widely accepted nationally. They empower DPTs to deliver exactly what they are rigorously trained to do: heal people, promote wellness, and prevent further injury.

Passing this bill in its entirety would not only modernize Oregon's healthcare system; it would send a powerful message that Oregon puts its patients first, that it listens to evidence, and that it values the providers who are ready to step up and serve.

I am living proof of what DPTs can accomplish. I am able to enjoy my life, care for my family, and stay active because I had access to the high-level care that DPTs provide. It is essential that every Oregonian has the same opportunity, without unnecessary obstacles standing in the way of healing.

Please stand with your constituents and the people of Oregon. Please vote YES on House Bill 3824.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the health of our state.