

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, passage of HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the vital role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve our patients. Personally, passage of HB 3824 would improve my ability to serve patients by allowing me to prescribe crutches and a boot to a patient who just sustained a fracture of their toe and is in need of timely care. The patient should not have to spend valuable tracking down a physician to order imaging and then prescribe crutches and a boot they should have received weeks ago. It costs the health care system and patient more money and delays care.

HB 3824A aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – in some cases, like dry needling, expanding care that is available in 46 others states, but currently not available in Oregon. This is very important to provide as it has been well established in other states as being a valuable tool for our patients. As PTs we know the anatomy better than all other healthcare providers second to orthopedic surgeons. The research has proven that PT's have a better working knowledge of the musculoskeletal anatomy than acupuncturists. We can use this technique effectively and safely.

HB 3824A would allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important especially given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay. I have a son with Cerebral Palsy that can not walk without a walker. His Physical therapist who spends hours a week with him knows more about his ability to ambulate better than his primary physician who may watch him for 5 min walking down the hall. Physical Therapists are the doctors of the musculoskeletal system, who better to evaluate this system??

HB 3824A would improve access, particularly in rural communities, to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing PTs to order and interpret imaging. Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care. In my practice I send 40% of my case load over to another DO for imaging. Per my evaluation, I already know the patient needs a deeper look to rule in/out a fracture or meniscal disruption. It would be a cost savings for both patient and the health care system for me to order the imaging direct.

Ensures patient safety by protecting the title “Doctor of Physical Therapy or DPT” to ensure that only those holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are permitted to use this title and abbreviation. Right now any personal trainer can use the abbreviations “DPT” which is hugely misleading to the public. The public may think they are getting a skilled clinician when in fact they are working with an individual with only 6 months- 1 year experience. This is a lie. It is deceiving and can place the public in harms way.

Enhances patient safety by adopting statutory language included in the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct to ensure that the PT licensing board has appropriate authority related to misconduct that is verbal, physical, and also through electronic means.