

Submitter: Emily Iverson  
On Behalf Of: Improved patient access  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I 100% support the PT Modernization Act (HB 3824A) and the impact it would have for all Oregonians who need cost-effective access to physical rehabilitation. HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the critical 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 making physical therapy more efficient and significantly reduce health care costs. It will also protect public safety as you will see in the section on personal trainers.

I have been a DPT for 21 years and have had to sit back and wait for weeks sometimes for a client to obtain the correct diagnostic imaging to help determine their plan of care. I know their disabilities often better than their PCP yet I cannot certify their disability license plate application. They have to go back to a physician (which can take weeks) and bill insurance for a visit that could easily have been bypassed. This also will free up physician's and their staff's important time.

I was also trained in dry needling which is in the scope of our training many years ago. For the short time that I used this modality, it helped patients immediately and without drugs, surgeries or a lot of additional PT visits.

The bill will 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. I especially support this portion of the bill because my clinic is connected to a large franchised fitness center. They have massive marketing with DPT everywhere; they even named a protein shake The DPT to abbreviate Dynamic Personal Trainer. I have witnessed several of them stretching hips through end range and then leaning their body weight onto that individual. Most disconcertingly, I witness on of them kneeling behind over elderly individual, tilting that person's head to the end range and then leaning their forearm into the stretched side's neck muscles. I have a document almost ready to send to the OPTA with these concerning practices as their use of DPT not only confused innocent consumers but it also ENDANGERS the public. Did the personal trainer know how to rule in or out any concerning diagnoses of why the individuals hip was "tight" or -even more concerning- did the trainer screen the elderly individuals neck and arteries? They most certainly did not and this could make these individuals bypass medical screening and miss something as life-threatening as bone cancer or literally cause a stroke. These personal trainers need to help the healthy public with fitness routines and not trick the public with marketing ploys that makes them look like they spent 8

years at a university like I and my fellow physical therapist did!

Thank you for your consideration to support this bill and bring my profession into the 21st Century. Physical therapists have earned these medical privileges and the public deserves to benefit from them. Let's help people who need access to care, save on health care costs and show PTs that you respect all that we do to serve our fellow Oregonians of all ages, abilities and backgrounds!