

Submitter: Megan Wiebe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Senate Committee:

I am writing to you in support of HB 3824 . As a nurse working in the hospital and as a person who has needed the services of physical therapists personally, granting physical therapists in Oregon the practice right to order imaging and durable medical equipment is the right choice for voters and patients.

Countless times, I have witnessed hospital physical therapists be consulted to work with patients & decide on what assistance equipment they will need upon discharge. This process is invariably delayed by doctors who are over worked, overwhelmed, and frequently do not even know what to order. This can delay discharge to home by hours and even days, costing patients money and additionally blocking a hospital bed needed by someone else. This causes further burden to hospital emergency rooms, a resource that is always stretched thin.

Personally, I saw my friend be diagnosed by her physical therapist with a fracture non-union of her collarbone. However, it took over two weeks for her to be referred and approved for X-rays as her PT had to send her back to her orthopedic doctor for the orders. She eventually needed surgery, which could have been sooner if that delay in care had not happened.

For myself: I had a traumatic spine injury in 2023, and have worked with an incredible physical therapist ever since. I have lost track of how many times she has wanted to refer me for more specialized treatments or update my scans, only for us to elect not to pursue it due to how long it would take and the financial cost of doing so.

With everything going on in the world right now, people are worried more than ever about how to take care of themselves and their loved ones. This bill has the opportunity to allay some of those fears in a real, tangible way.

Thank you for your consideration.