

Submitter: Elizabeth Thompson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Committee Chairs,

I am a current student at an Oregon university and I am urging you to support HB3824. As a healthcare consumer in the state who plans to continue post-graduate school in Oregon and remain in the state thereafter, I urge you to consider that 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 inclusion of dry needling in the PT scope of practice here. I have received dry needling from a licensed physical therapist in another state prior to my relocation to Oregon and I am writing to urge you to support HB 3824, specifically the provision that would allow physical therapists to perform dry needling. Having experienced the effectiveness of dry needling, I can speak to the efficacy and safety of the intervention. 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.