

Submitter: Kassie Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Committee Chairs,

I am an Oregon resident and I am urging you to support HB3824. As a healthcare consumer in the state, 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 residency in 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 for my specific issue, 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. Having experienced both acupuncture from a licensed acupuncturist and dry needling by a licensed physical therapist, I can speak to the marked difference between the two techniques. Unlike acupuncture alone, dry needling by a physical therapist is part of a comprehensive rehabilitation plan—grounded in anatomy, movement science, and ongoing assessment. This approach has transformed my daily life and given me hope for lasting recovery.

I respectfully urge you to support HB3824, allowing Oregon physical therapists to provide dry needling as they do in other states. This change will enhance patient access to high-quality, comprehensive care for those of us with complex conditions. Thank you.