

Submitter: Jessica Dorrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am writing to urge your support for the advancement of HB 3824 that would empower physical therapists (PTs) to practice fully as musculoskeletal experts. Currently, PTs face unnecessary limitations when it comes to ordering imaging tests, treatment tools of dry needling and acknowledging social settings that impart on a patient's way of life with injury that are essential for accurate diagnoses and effective patient care. This restriction not only wastes valuable time and resources but also compromises patient outcomes.

The issue of titles and scope of practice is critical. I have witnessed firsthand how the fitness industry attempts to misuse the titles "PT" and "DPT," often marketing personal trainers as if they hold the same qualifications as licensed physical therapists. This deceptive practice leads patients to believe they are receiving professional physical therapy services when, in fact, they are being treated by someone without the necessary clinical training, putting patients at risk. I've had clients tell me their trainer "cranked on" and massaged areas of pain.

Physical therapy is proven to facilitate quick recovery, with patients typically seeing significant progress in fewer visits (an average of 6-8). By enhancing our scope of practice, we can ensure that patients receive timely, effective care that prevents further complications, eases the strain on healthcare resources, and ultimately leads to improved public health outcomes.

I implore you to support this crucial bill to enable PTs to practice fully within our scope of expertise. Together, we can transform patient care and contribute to a healthier society by allowing our profession to flourish and serve our communities effectively.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your support.