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House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Oregon House of Representatives

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 3824A – the PT Modernization Act**, which seeks to update the Physical Therapy Practice Act to allow physical therapists (PTs) in Oregon to issue disability placards, order diagnostic imaging, and perform dry needling within their scope of practice.

As a Physical Therapist, I believe these proposed updates reflect the current clinical training and capabilities of licensed PTs. More importantly, they will significantly **improve access to timely, efficient, and patient-centered care** for Oregonians.

Enhancing Patient Access and Reducing Delays

Physical therapists are often a first point of contact for patients with neuromuscular/musculoskeletal conditions. By allowing PTs to issue disability placards, patients can avoid unnecessary and redundant visits to other providers simply to obtain documentation, easing the burden on both patients and the broader healthcare system. Similarly, granting PTs the authority to order diagnostic imaging aligns with their clinical judgment and reduces delays in diagnosis, which can result in faster initiation of appropriate care and better outcomes. PTs are trained in these matters in their doctoral education and tested rigorously in their licensing examination. Update to the PT practice act brings the current standard of practice up to the level of the therapist's skill set.

Promoting Efficient and Evidence-Based Care

The ability to perform dry needling is already supported by extensive clinical training and continuing education among PTs. Many states have already adopted this as part of the PT scope of practice, and there is no clinical justification to restrict its use in Oregon. Allowing qualified PTs to perform dry needling within their scope not only expands treatment options

but also avoids unnecessary referrals or duplicate services, thereby reducing healthcare costs and administrative burden.

Reducing Wasteful Practices

In the current system, PTs are often required to schedule additional visits or request outside referrals simply to provide documentation or services that fall well within their expertise. This leads to **inefficiencies, increased costs, and unnecessary strain on patients**. HB 3824A addresses these inefficiencies directly by trusting the clinical judgment and autonomy of PTs, who are already held to rigorous professional standards and state licensure requirements.

Conclusion

HB 3824A represents a forward-thinking, patient-first approach to modernizing Oregon's healthcare landscape. It reflects both the competence of physical therapists and the evolving demands of a healthcare system. By prioritizing **accessibility, efficiency, and quality care provision**, Oregonians would have improved care outcomes. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and help ensure that Oregon's laws reflect contemporary, evidence-based practice in physical therapy.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to advancing patient care in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kaylene Olson

Doctor of Physical Therapy