

Submitter: Connor Perkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Connor Perkins, PT, DPT
Licensed Physical Therapist
State of Oregon

May 5th, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Connor Perkins, and I am a licensed physical therapist in the state of Oregon. I support this measure because dry needling is within the scope of practice for physical therapists. Under current legislation, even in most states where dry needling is permitted, it cannot be directly billed in a physical therapy setting. Therefore, dry needling is only used because it is effective and serves as a valuable tool we, as practitioners, can utilize to help our patients.

Allowing physical therapists to perform dry needling will not hinder the practice of acupuncturists. The techniques and goals of acupuncturists and physical therapists differ significantly. Providers who refer to acupuncturists will not begin referring to physical therapists instead, and patients seeking acupuncture will not seek dry needling from a physical therapist, as the approaches and intended outcomes are distinct.

Only physical therapists who are properly educated and trained will perform dry needling. Those who are unqualified or act recklessly with needles should not hold a physical therapy license. Our profession maintains high standards to ensure patient safety and efficacy of care.

Additionally, I urge your support of HB 3824 so that Oregon can:

-Align physical therapy practice in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy—expanding care that is already available in 46 other states but currently restricted in Oregon.

-Allow physical therapists to certify disability placard or license plate applications. This ability is especially important in light of Oregon's provider shortage and will help patients receive timely accommodations. This privilege is already granted to PTs in 13 other states.

-Improve access to and timeliness of imaging by allowing physical therapists to order and interpret imaging studies. Over 10 states have adopted this change to reduce patient costs and improve outcomes through more efficient care.

-Ensure patient safety by protecting the title “Doctor of Physical Therapy” (DPT). This title should be reserved for those who have earned a doctoral degree in physical therapy. Some entities inappropriately use "DPT" to mean "dynamic personal training," which is misleading and potentially harmful to patients.

-Strengthen patient safety by adopting language from the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct, granting the licensing board authority over misconduct that is verbal, physical, or electronic.

I strongly urge your support of this legislation for the benefit of Oregonians in need of accessible, timely, and safe care.

Sincerely,
Connor Perkins, PT, DPT