

Submitter: Vivek Sharma
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, passage of HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the vital role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve our patients.

Personally, passage of HB 3824 would improve my ability to serve patients by improving my ability to diagnose and treat patients better and minimizing the need to refer to the GP for making a requisition to diagnostics or other healthcare provider. There are many times, where a patient needs a plain x-ray and we have to refer the patient to their GP first and then that imaging will be ordered. Such conventional practices add further to the ever-rising healthcare costs. The same holds true for prescribing non-opioid pain meds. Physical therapists are underutilized in the current health care system and should be allowed to work at an advanced practitioner level much like other countries such as Canada and UK.

HB3824A aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – in some cases, like dry needling, expanding care that is available in 46 others states, but currently not available in Oregon.

HB3824A would allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important especially given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay.

HB3824A would improve access, particularly in rural communities, to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing PTs to order and interpret imaging. Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care.

Ensures patient safety by protecting the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy or DPT" to ensure that only those holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are permitted to use this title and abbreviation.

Enhances patient safety by adopting statutory language included in the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct to ensure that the PT licensing board has appropriate authority related to misconduct that is verbal, physical, and also through electronic means.

VIVEK SHARMA PT
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