

Submitter: Kaylene Meyer

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 allowing me to order imaging which would facilitate the appropriate care in a timely manor leading to shorter episodes of care and more efficient use of time and healthcare dollars. With the current shortage of PCPs, it would be beneficial for everyone if physical therapists had the legal ability to be a primary provider for musculoskeletal complaints. In order to do this effectively, we need to be recognized for our extensive education and training as DPTs, and be able to order imaging when appropriate. This would eliminate many hurdles for patients seeking care for aches, pains, sprains, and strains.

HB 3824A 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.

HB 3824A 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.

HB 3824A 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.