

Submitter: Candace Raczkowski  
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 utilize dry needling with some patients who I have seen benefit in my use of the technique while practicing in Arizona. Additionally, in a rural area like Newport, Oregon, acupuncturists are difficult to find and difficult for patients to afford. If they could get the dry needling treatment through myself, insurance would cover the benefit it provides them. I also strongly believe, especially in a rural area, that the ability to order imaging is very beneficial to patients so that they do not have to wait several weeks to get an appointment with the referring doctor to do so. The longer this process takes, the worse the condition gets and the more money it costs to the system in the long run.

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 other 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.

Candace Raczkowski, PT, DPT

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