

Submitter: Samuel Nicholas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for HB 3824A – PT Modernization Act

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Samuel Nicholas, PT, DPT, and I practice at Whole Body Health Physical Therapy in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act. This bill represents a thoughtful, timely advancement in Oregon's healthcare system that will directly enhance patient access, safety, and outcomes through common-sense updates to the physical therapy scope of practice.

Every day, I work with patients who would benefit from streamlined, immediate access to tools and services that support their recovery—whether that means fitting them with medically necessary durable equipment, authorizing a temporary disabled parking permit, or administering a vaccine that supports their broader wellness. Currently, these basic care decisions are delayed by outdated regulatory barriers that prevent physical therapists from practicing to the full extent of their training and expertise.

HB 3824A allows physical therapists to do what we are already trained to do: prescribe durable medical equipment, authorize disabled parking permits, administer vaccines with appropriate training, and provide telehealth care to those who cannot access in-person services. It also clarifies the use of diagnostic sonography within physical therapy—a tool we already use for musculoskeletal evaluation, biofeedback, and care progression.

Importantly, these changes do not expand physical therapy into new or experimental territory; they align Oregon with modern standards already adopted in other states. Patients trust us with their recovery, mobility, and daily function. We should be trusted with these common-sense tools that improve efficiency and outcomes while reducing burdens on primary care providers.

I urge you to support HB 3824A and help Oregon's healthcare system reflect the realities of today's practice. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of patients and providers alike.

Sincerely,
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