

Submitter: Caitlin Wade
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Caitlin Wade, DPT
Whole Body Health Physical Therapy
cwade@wbhpt.com | 503-223-1856

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House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act. As a Doctor of Physical Therapy practicing at Whole Body Health Physical Therapy, I see every day how the limitations of outdated regulations restrict our ability to provide timely, effective care to our patients. This bill offers long-overdue updates that align with our current training, capabilities, and the needs of Oregonians.

Expanding the authority of physical therapists to prescribe durable medical equipment, sign disabled parking permit applications, and administer vaccines are all pragmatic changes that will remove unnecessary delays in care. These are tasks well within our scope of practice and training, and allowing PTs to perform them will improve patient access—especially for individuals in rural or underserved areas.

In addition, the provisions in HB 3824A that recognize our use of sonographic imaging and support telehealth growth are not only appropriate—they are essential for modern, responsive care. The Board of Physical Therapy's structure and authority also need the updates outlined in this bill to reflect the evolving responsibilities of our profession.

I urge you to advance HB 3824A without delay. These changes will empower physical therapists to better serve their communities, reduce administrative burdens on physicians, and help our healthcare system function more efficiently. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation and for your commitment to improving access to care in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Wade, DPT
Whole Body Health Physical Therapy