Submitter: Jessica McConahay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for HB 3824A – The Physical Therapy Modernization Act

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Jessica McConahay, PT, DPT, Therapeutic Pain Specialist, and
Fellow of Pain Science. I am a practicing physical therapist at Whole Body Health
Physical Therapy in Portland, Oregon. I write to express my strong support for HB
3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act.

As a clinician who spends significant one-on-one time with patients, I witness
firsthand the barriers that current outdated referral requirements impose on timely
and effective care. Our healthcare system is burdened with delays—patients wait
weeks or even months to access care, often enduring unnecessary pain or worsening
function. In contrast, physical therapists are uniquely positioned to evaluate and treat
musculoskeletal and neuromuscular conditions early, often preventing the need for
more costly or invasive interventions.

Physical therapists like myself build trusting, sustained relationships with patients.
We spend more time per visit than many other providers, which allows us to
understand the whole picture of a patient's health. Yet, under current regulations, we
are still subject to referral constraints that do not reflect our doctoral-level education
or the modern scope of our practice.

HB 3824A represents a long-overdue update that aligns Oregon law with the
evidence-based standards already adopted in many other states. It ensures patients
can access qualified, comprehensive care without unnecessary gatekeeping while
preserving safety and collaboration within the broader healthcare system.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 3824A to support the kind of healthcare Oregonians
deserve—timely, personalized, and effective.

Sincerely,

Jessica McConahay, PT, DPT
Therapeutic Pain Specialist, Fellow of Pain Science