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Testimony in Support of HB 3824A – The PT Modernization Act

To: Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and Members of the Committee

As a licensed physical therapist with over two decades of experience and the owner of a pelvic health private practice in Salem, I urge you to support HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act.

In my field, timely access to care is not a convenience—it is a necessity. My patients often present with complex pelvic conditions requiring targeted interventions and, at times, additional diagnostics to guide appropriate care. However, under current restrictions, I am unable to directly refer these patients for imaging. Instead, they must navigate an additional layer of healthcare bureaucracy, including wait times to see a specialist who will likely order the very test I recommended weeks earlier. This detour delays critical interventions, contributes to patient frustration, and, in some cases, exacerbates their physical and emotional discomfort.

HB 3824A does not seek to expand physical therapists' scope beyond our training. Rather, it aligns our practice with modern standards already embraced in over 40 other states. We are well-trained in differential diagnosis, and when we refer for imaging or work with support staff, we do so judiciously and in the best interest of our patients. The current supervisory structure, in particular, is outdated and misaligned with the realities of contemporary PT practice—especially in specialized settings like mine, where patient needs are both specific and time-sensitive.

This bill reflects not just a policy change, but a long-overdue acknowledgment of the clinical acumen and autonomy physical therapists have earned. More importantly, it is a meaningful step toward reducing care delays, lowering costs, and enhancing outcomes for Oregonians.

Please support HB 3824A and help bring Oregon in line with national best practices.

Respectfully,

Shannon Forrestall, MSPT