

Dear Committee Chairs,

I am an Oregon resident and a current doctor of physical therapy student and I am urging you to support HB3824. As a healthcare consumer and future provider in the state of Oregon, allowing physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging would improve access to care and facilitate prompt diagnosis. In order to obtain needed diagnostic imaging, I have personally had to wait weeks to months to see a specialist, usually at a high cost to me and the medical system, just to hopefully obtain a prescription for imaging, and then wait additional weeks or months to then obtain the images. Obtaining a prescription for imaging directly from my physical therapist would save me and the healthcare system time and money. At least 13 other states already allow physical therapists to provide this level of care and given their doctoral level training in anatomy, pathology, and differential diagnosis, it is appropriate and in-line with well-established practice.

Additionally, I ask that you support the inclusion of dry needling in the PT scope of practice here. I have received dry needling from a licensed physical therapist in another state prior to my residency in Oregon and I am writing to urge you to support HB 3824, specifically the provision that would allow physical therapists to perform dry needling. Having experienced the effectiveness of dry needling for my specific issue, I can speak to the efficacy and safety of the intervention. Again, as a health care consumer and future provider in Oregon, my choices for receiving and giving care that I know is effective for me/others is limited by restricting the practice of dry needling to exclude licensed physical therapists.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 3824, allowing Oregon physical therapists to provide dry needling as they do in other states. This change will enhance patient access to high-quality, comprehensive care for those of us with complex conditions. Physical therapists are currently not allowed to practice at the top of their scope and this bill will help modernize PT practice in Oregon, ultimately providing the best evidence-based care to the Oregon community. Thank you.