

## Decision Makers for the passage of HB 3824,

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon for the last 6 years, passage of HB 3824 is vitally important because it recognizes the vital role that PTs play in Oregon's health care system and the rigorous training, education, and experience that PTs bring to serve our patients. Personally, passage of HB 3824 would improve my ability to serve patients in many ways. As trained as a primary care physical therapist working in the past for a hospital-based system, I was able to see first-hand how the ability to recommend imaging, when appropriate for patients, led to best practice and outcomes following ACR criteria. As a trained doctorate level physical therapist, we often review patient's imaging with the patient in order for them to understand the results and how they contribute overall to their pain and symptoms. We also understand the normal effects of aging that will be seen on imaging and how to properly educate our patients. We are competent and trained in identifying medical red flags where imaging is appropriate. Over **10 other states** have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care, and I would love to see Oregon among the list of progressive states to best help serve the health and wellness of the Oregon population.

In addition to this, HB 3824 aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – in some cases, like dry needling, expanding care that is available in **46 others states**, but currently not available in Oregon. This I feel is an important step for physical therapists to aid in treatment for the Oregon population as it has the potential to allow for short term relief of symptoms in addition to use of this for diagnostic purposes. The training/education in addition to the treatment philosophy involved with this is much different comparatively to acupuncturists, as it involves directly targeting musculoskeletal tissue to address symptoms. As a doctorate level physical therapist, we have extensive knowledge of the anatomy and physiology associated with this treatment method that provides us with a strong foundation that, in conjunction with attending additional dry needling courses, makes us more than qualified to perform. We understand that utilizing this as a treatment model is not a stand-alone treatment. We fully acknowledge that improving the load tolerance for the individual by strength training adaptations in addition to this will help serve the patient's best interest in the pursuit of recovering from injury and progress towards overall improvement with regards to health and wellness.

With review of HB 3824, it would allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important especially given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodation quickly and without unnecessary delay.

In summary, I believe that it is essential to pass HB 3824 to allow licensed Doctors of Physical Therapy in Oregon to practice within the full scope of our training, education, and expertise. With the improved practice and treatment abilities allowed with this bill, Physical Therapists will be able to best serve Oregon residents and help move them out of disability, sickness, and pain toward lifestyle changes, wellness, fitness, and overall improved quality of life.

Thank you so much for your time, consideration, and care for Oregon residents' health and wellness.

Stronger Together,

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Physical Therapist



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