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Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment
or Topic: HB 3824

I am writing in strong support of HB 3824 which would update the practice of physical therapy in Oregon. I am a retired military physical therapist and have performed the technique of dry needling for 10 years. I've held assignments which included teaching and training dry needling to fellow military physical therapists, physicians, physician assistants, and nurses. I've also held posts which included the review of procedures, safety for clinical practices, and incidents related to the delivery of physical therapy services in the Air Force.

Physical therapists are experts in musculoskeletal examination and care. Physical therapists have performed dry needling procedures for patients with a high level of competence and safety for many years. Through my 10 years of utilizing dry needling as a military physical therapist, physicians and other allied health professionals routinely referred patients to myself and my fellow physical therapists to evaluate and perform dry needling for patients if we determine it to be an appropriate intervention. The addition of dry needling to current physical therapy interventions greatly improved clinical outcomes and the overall health and wellness of the service members we served. Physical therapists achieved these better outcomes without compromising safety for our patients. As a result, service members were better able to meet mission requirements in service of our great nation. In addition, there are many published works which show increased benefits for patients receiving dry needling interventions delivered by physical therapists.

In conclusion, physical therapists are expert musculoskeletal clinicians who can perform dry needling competently, safely, and improve the health and function for the patients we serve in Oregon.

Thank you for your time.