

Submitter:

James Cavin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon, 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 well by reducing the wait time for appropriate imaging and allowing me to utilize the technique of dry needling with patients.

HB 3824A 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 other states, but currently not available in Oregon. This is commonly opposed by acupuncturists because of its use of acupuncture needles, but is completely different in both scope (ours is limited to muscular treatments vs. acupuncture's treatment of every system in the body) and principles (acupuncture is based on eastern medicine and includes concepts such as energy flow and meridians that are not recognized in western medicine).

HB 3824A 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 accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay. For the same reason, it is important, particularly in rural communities, to allow PTs to order and interpret imaging. Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care. Finally, HB 3824A enhances patient safety by adopting statutory language included in the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct, ensuring that the PT licensing board has appropriate authority related to misconduct that is verbal, physical, and also through electronic means.

I strongly support this bill and encourage you to do the same, improving patient access, care and safety.