

Submitter: Meredith Wampler-Kuhn
On Behalf Of: Improved Patient Access to Care
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I am in full support of this bill as a physical therapist in Oregon. I teach at Oregon State University Doctor of Physical Therapy program and believe that this bill will allow for increased access to safe and contemporary physical therapy practice in the State of Oregon for the following reasons:

1. 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 others states, but currently not available in Oregon.
2. HB 3824A would improve access, particularly in rural communities, to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing 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.
3. Ensures patient safety by protecting the title “Doctor of Physical Therapy or DPT” to ensure that only those holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are permitted to use this title and abbreviation.
4. 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.

Sincerely,
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