

## Written Testimony in Support of Oregon HB 3824A

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the PT Modernization Act (HB 3824A). As a physical therapist practicing in Oregon for over 35 years, I believe the passage of HB 3824A is vitally important for several reasons.

Firstly, this bill recognizes the vital role that physical therapists play in Oregon's health care system. Our rigorous training, education, and experience equip us to provide high-quality care to our patients. While I am now in a clinical education role, improving access to skilled clinical interventions will enhance my colleagues ability to provide timely and effective treatments, expanding the scope of services they can offer, and ultimately improving patient outcomes.

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. This alignment is crucial as it brings Oregon up to par with practices in 46 other states, particularly in areas like dry needling, which is currently not available in Oregon. Expanding the scope of practice to include dry needling would allow physical therapists to offer more comprehensive care to our patients.

Additionally, 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. It can help ensure that patients receive adequate accommodations quickly and without unnecessary delay, improving their quality of life.

The bill also aims to improve access to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing physical therapists to order and interpret imaging. **This is particularly beneficial in rural communities where access to healthcare providers is limited.** Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timely care.

Furthermore, HB 3824A ensures patient safety by protecting the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy or DPT." This protection ensures that only those holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are permitted to use this title and abbreviation, maintaining the integrity and trust in our profession.

Lastly, the bill enhances patient safety by adopting statutory language related to sexual misconduct included in the PT Model Practice Act. This ensures that the PT licensing board has appropriate authority to address misconduct that is verbal, physical, and also through electronic means, safeguarding our patients and maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct.

In conclusion, the passage of HB 3824A is essential for modernizing the practice of physical therapy in Oregon, improving patient care, and ensuring the safety and well-being of our patients. I urge you to support this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Sweeney

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