

To: Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Re: Support for HB 3824A – Physical Therapy Modernization Act

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Shiyomura, PT, DPT, and I am a practicing physical therapist at Therapy Works Physical Therapy in Redmond, Oregon. I am writing today in strong support of HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act, which would bring much-needed updates to Oregon's physical therapy scope of practice.

This legislation aligns Oregon with the standards already adopted in many other states, including the authorization of dry needling, the ability for physical therapists to order imaging, prescribe durable medical equipment, and certify disability placard applications. These are not radical expansions—they are modernizations that reflect the advanced education and clinical judgment required of today's Doctor of Physical Therapy.

One aspect of the bill I find particularly urgent is the legalization of dry needling. As a clinician, I see firsthand how patients struggle with chronic pain and limited mobility. In other states where dry needling is permitted, physical therapists have one more highly effective, non-pharmacologic tool to address musculoskeletal pain. Especially amid Oregon's ongoing opioid crisis, HB 3824A gives us the ability to offer safer, evidence-based alternatives to addictive medications.

Additionally, allowing physical therapists to order imaging and prescribe DME reduces unnecessary delays in patient care. We are trained to recognize when advanced imaging is warranted or when assistive devices are clinically indicated. The current limitations create barriers that ultimately increase healthcare costs and prolong patient suffering.

This bill also clarifies our authority to use the DPT title—a title earned through rigorous doctoral-level education—and grants the ability to administer vaccines, an especially timely need as our healthcare system continues to manage public health threats.

Modernizing Oregon's Physical Therapy Practice Act is not just a professional issue—it is a patient access issue. By empowering physical therapists with tools already proven safe and effective in other states, HB 3824A enhances the responsiveness and efficiency of care for Oregonians across the state.

Thank you for your attention to this critical legislation and for your support in passing HB 3824A.

Sincerely,
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