

Hb3824a Support Letter

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To: Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3824A – The Physical Therapy Modernization Act

Date: [Insert Today's Date]

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

My name is Meghan Navish, and I am a licensed physical therapist practicing at Therapy Works Physical Therapy in Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act. This important legislation reflects long-overdue updates that will enhance patient care, reduce healthcare delays, and align our scope of practice with the demands and realities of modern healthcare.

As a provider on the front lines of musculoskeletal rehabilitation, I frequently encounter administrative and regulatory barriers that hinder timely and efficient care. For example, my patients often require durable medical equipment—braces, supports, mobility aids—that I am clinically qualified to assess and recommend, yet under current law, I must refer them back to another provider solely to authorize the prescription. This adds cost and delay, and most critically, disrupts continuity of care. Allowing physical therapists to prescribe DME directly is a common-sense update that puts patient needs first.

Similarly, authorizing physical therapists to sign disabled parking permit applications recognizes the central role we play in evaluating mobility limitations. We are trained to assess function and safety in ways that directly inform whether a patient requires accessible parking, and the current system creates an unnecessary burden on patients—many of whom already face access challenges.

HB 3824A also rightly clarifies that PTs using sonographic imaging for treatment planning should not be required to seek additional licensure. Diagnostic ultrasound is a standard and essential tool in our practice, and this provision ensures we can continue to use it responsibly without duplicative oversight.

Beyond these clinical improvements, the bill includes thoughtful modernizations to PT definitions, expands telehealth capabilities, and refines Board structure to better reflect today's workforce. These changes will strengthen the profession's responsiveness, uphold high standards, and improve access to care—especially in rural and underserved areas.

I urge you to advance HB 3824A and help bring Oregon's physical therapy regulations into alignment with best practices and patient-centered care. Our profession is ready, and our patients deserve it.

Thank you for your attention and leadership.

Sincerely,

Meghan Navish, PT