

Submitter:	Brecken VandenHoek
On Behalf Of:	Improved Patient Access to Care
Committee:	Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3824

As a student physical therapist, I strongly support HB 3824A because it aligns the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's Model Practice Act, helping ensure that I—and my future colleagues—can provide the highest standard of care to patients across the state. This bill would allow physical therapists to perform dry needling, an effective treatment already available in 46 other states but currently not permitted in Oregon. It also enables PTs to certify disability placard or license plate applications, which is especially important given the shortage of healthcare providers in Oregon and the need to streamline access to accommodations for patients.

HB 3824A would also improve access to imaging services by allowing PTs to order and interpret imaging, reducing delays and lowering costs for patients—particularly those in rural areas where access to care is already limited. As someone preparing to enter this profession, I appreciate that the bill protects patient safety by reserving the title “Doctor of Physical Therapy” or “DPT” for those who have earned a doctoral degree, helping patients clearly understand who is treating them. Finally, by incorporating clear statutory language related to sexual misconduct—including verbal, physical, and electronic forms—HB 3824A strengthens accountability and ensures a safer environment for patients and providers alike.