

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act. As a licensed physical therapist practicing in an outpatient clinic in Oregon, I witness daily how essential our profession is to the continuum of care—and how overdue our state is for aligning statutory authority with modern clinical capabilities.

HB 3824A brings Oregon into alignment with national best practices and addresses longstanding barriers that limit patient access to timely, cost-effective care. Specifically, authorizing physical therapists to prescribe durable medical equipment allows us to respond more comprehensively to our patients' functional needs and public health priorities—without unnecessary delays or referrals. These are services physical therapists are already trained to deliver safely and competently.

Our clinic frequently sees patients whose recovery hinges on swift access to supportive equipment—whether braces, mobility aids, or orthotic devices. Under current law, these patients are often forced to schedule an additional provider visit just to obtain a prescription, despite our clear clinical evaluation and documentation. The delays add cost, discourage follow-through, and slow down functional progress. HB 3824A responsibly eliminates that inefficiency.

This legislation also takes a critical step toward recognizing telehealth as a permanent, valid mode of delivering physical therapy. The pandemic demonstrated that for many patients, especially those in rural or mobility-restricted situations, remote access is not just convenient—it's necessary. Codifying that flexibility into law will help Oregon meet patients where they are.

Additionally, this provision aims to enhance transparency and protect consumers by ensuring that only qualified professionals use the DPT title. It prevents misleading representations and helps patients make informed decisions about their healthcare providers .

Finally, the bill makes important updates to licensure and board structure, ensuring that our regulatory framework keeps pace with the evolving nature of physical therapy practice.

I urge you to pass HB 3824A and affirm your commitment to evidence-based, accessible, and modern care for Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration and for supporting the professionals who are dedicated to improving lives through movement.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Caitlin Sears, PT**