

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

Hello everyone,

My name is Alan and I am writing in support of this bill for many reasons. The need for physical therapists to operate as primary care providers is great. Far too often, patients, especially active patients, seek the care of a physical therapist before they see their primary care provider or take a trip to the urgent care or ER. We should be thankful they do! More often than not, once a patient enters the traditional American healthcare system, they fall into a costly pit from both a time and money perspective. They often spend several weeks or months as well as several thousand dollars to arrive back at the same place they started: conservative management. Why not let them start here? And why not let physical therapists perform the red flag screening to determine if a patient needs further imaging or advanced care, instead of prescribing it to every person?

Going one step further, if someone does consult a physical therapist, why should the patient be sent back to a primary care physician only to be sent for further imaging? Why not allow the patient to skip an \$800 office visit they might not be able to book for several weeks? If we're really concerned well-being of the patient that something serious is happening, why are we going to make them wait to be seen? And then wait for an imaging appointment? If the physical therapist is concerned the patient is not a candidate for conservative management because of the need for further investigation, why not let them act there, in the moment?

I am currently undergoing treatment for liver cancer. From the moment my primary care physician expressed concerns about elevated liver enzymes to the beginning of treatment took me almost ONE YEAR. Waiting a month for bloodwork, waiting 3 months for an ultrasound, waiting 6 months to see the hepatologist and then 3 more months for further testing to confirm the diagnosis and start treatment. Why would we subject ANYONE to this system if we could avoid it?

In addition, physical therapists are THE practitioner of choice to perform dry needling. Who else knows the musculoskeletal system better? Newly graduated physical therapists have almost a decade of training in the structure and function of the human musculoskeletal system. They have almost 100 hours of training in school on dry needling and have thousands of hours of direct patient care experience by graduation.

Will mistakes be made? Yes, but you can look on the "naughty" list of the licensing

website of any state and see that hundreds of healthcare providers make mistakes every single week. 150 Americans die EVERY DAY due to mis-prescribed anesthesia for surgical procedures. What if we had access to treatments that could help patients resolve their pain and avoid that risk entirely?

We should not withhold helpful treatments from patients in a cost and time effective manner out of overt fear of mistakes.