

Submitter: Joshua Hollabaugh  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Chairs,

My name is Joshua Hollabaugh, and I am a practicing internal medicine physician in Oregon. I am writing to ask for your support in passing House Bill 3824, the PT Modernization Act.

Physical therapists with doctoral degrees (DPTs) are uniquely qualified to prescribe durable medical equipment due to their specialized education and training. They complete extensive coursework in biomechanics, gait analysis, and assistive technology assessment that is both comprehensive and highly skilled. Their expertise in functional mobility and comprehensive understanding of activity limitations makes them ideal professionals to determine appropriate DME needs. I rely on this expertise on a regular basis in my practice, and acknowledge their training in these regards is much more comprehensive than my own.

As a care provider, I spend considerable time processing DME prescription requests from physical therapists who have already performed comprehensive evaluations to determine exactly what equipment patients need. This creates unnecessary delays and barriers for patients awaiting essential mobility aids. Allowing qualified PTs to directly order DME would expedite patient care while allowing me to focus on more complex medical issues that require my specific expertise.

Physical therapists receive rigorous training in musculoskeletal assessment and specific evidence-based clinical decision rules that guide imaging decisions. They routinely apply protocols like the Ottawa Ankle Rules and Canadian C-Spine Rules—the same guidelines we use in primary care—to determine when imaging is warranted. Their doctoral education includes substantial training in recognizing red flags and understanding imaging appropriateness criteria.

Currently, when a physical therapist evaluates a patient and determines imaging is necessary, they must refer the patient to a physician, like me solely to order the same imaging the PT has already determined appropriate. This creates unnecessary delays in care, increases costs to patients through additional visits, and adds administrative burden. Granting PTs imaging privileges would streamline care pathways, reduce delays in patients receiving necessary care.

In our current healthcare climate where Oregonians struggle with access to care, allowing qualified physical therapists to directly order imaging studies, and order durable medical equipment will help increase access to care, reduce financial toxicity,

and improve the health of Oregonians.

In summary, I urge you to support HB3824 in its entirety. Oregonians deserve access to safe, effective, evidence based care by licensed providers.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Hollabaugh, MD MPH