

**Chantel Gorton, PT, DPT**

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**Subject: Support for HB 3824A Physical Therapy Modernization Act**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act. As a licensed physical therapist practicing in Oregon and currently working with Work Right NW, I have witnessed firsthand the critical and evolving role physical therapists play in delivering timely, evidence-based, and cost-effective care across a wide range of settings.

HB 3824A reflects the natural progression of our profession, aligning Oregon law with modern clinical capabilities and national standards. Physical therapists today are highly trained doctoral-level professionals equipped to not only assess and treat complex musculoskeletal conditions, but also to support broader public health goals such as increasing vaccination access, prescribing durable medical equipment, and identifying functional impairments that qualify for accessible parking permits.

By granting physical therapists the authority to perform these functions independently, this legislation removes unnecessary delays that currently hinder patient care. When a physical therapist is required to refer a patient to another provider simply to obtain a signature or authorization for something well within our clinical expertise, it creates inefficiencies, increases healthcare costs, and frustrates both providers and patients. HB 3824A would correct that.

Empowering physical therapists to practice at the top of our license does not just benefit clinicians; it benefits Oregonians. It means faster interventions, fewer handoffs, and more direct access to care. It also reinforces trust in our profession and acknowledges the rigorous training we undergo to provide high-quality, autonomous care.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3824A and help advance a more responsive, efficient, and collaborative healthcare system in Oregon.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chantel Gorton", followed by the printed text "PT, DPT".

Sincerely,

**Chantel Gorton, PT, DPT**