

Submitter: Brian Schaudt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824
Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee,

My name is Brian Schaudt, and I was among those signed up to testify in support of HB 3824 but was unable to speak live due to time constraints.

I currently serve as the only physical therapist based in Wheeler and Gilliam County, making me the most rural physical therapist in the state. I also provide pediatric physical therapy services across three counties and a Native American reservation.

I am employed by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)—the only clinic in our county. Our full-time healthcare team consists of just four individuals: a dentist, a nurse practitioner, a home health registered nurse, and me.

In the past month alone, I've treated patients ranging in age from 6 months to 98 years old, managing conditions such as strokes, spina bifida, and spondylolisthesis. Our nearest hospital is 95 miles away, and the drive time to reach basic specialty services from my location is equivalent to the drive from your location to Bend.

These trips can be physically taxing and financially burdensome, especially for a population that is predominantly over age 65 and living below the poverty line. These are precisely the individuals who place the greatest demand on our healthcare system when access to timely, preventive care is limited or denied.

While HB 3824 will not resolve every challenge we face, it is a meaningful step forward. The provisions in this bill are not novel to the physical therapy profession nationwide—we are simply trying to align Oregon with established best practices supported by education, training, and evidence-based outcomes.

I urge you to support HB 3824 and empower providers like me to deliver more timely, efficient, and high-quality care to our most underserved communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian Schaudt, PT, DPT, MS
Fossil, Oregon