

Submitter: Kaitlyn Fraser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

I strongly support House Bill 3824, a comprehensive and forward-thinking bill that updates and clarifies several key areas within the scope of practice for licensed physical therapists in Oregon.

This bill represents a meaningful step forward in enhancing patient access, streamlining care, and ensuring that physical therapists can fully utilize their training and expertise. Each provision of HB 3824 contributes to a more efficient, responsive, and modern healthcare system:

1. **Dry Needling:** HB 3824 formally recognizes dry needling as a technique that may be safely performed by trained physical therapists. This intervention is already used widely across the country as a highly effective tool for managing musculoskeletal pain. Providing regulatory clarity ensures consistent standards, improves patient safety, and increases access to non-opioid pain relief.

2. **Administration of Vaccines:** By allowing physical therapists to administer vaccines, Oregon can expand the reach of public health initiatives—especially in rural or underserved areas. Physical therapists often have longstanding relationships with patients, and enabling them to provide immunizations makes healthcare more convenient and accessible.

3. **Prescription of Durable Medical Equipment (DME):** Physical therapists are uniquely positioned to assess a patient’s mobility needs. Allowing them to prescribe DME—such as walkers, braces, or orthotics—without requiring a separate physician visit reduces delays and improves continuity of care.

4. **Signing Disabled Person Parking Permit Applications:** Physical therapists regularly evaluate mobility limitations. Authorizing them to sign parking permit applications simply acknowledges the role they already play in assessing functional ability and supports timely access to essential accommodations.

5. **Use of Sonographic Imaging:** Exempting physical therapists from needing a separate imaging license for sonographic procedures performed within the scope of physical therapy reflects both common sense and professional standards. Imaging is often used to guide treatment and monitor progress, and therapists trained in its use should not face redundant regulatory barriers.

Together, these provisions acknowledge the evolving and evidence-based nature of

physical therapy practice. HB 3824 does not expand the profession beyond its competencies—it simply removes outdated restrictions and aligns Oregon law with national best practices.

I urge you to support HB 3824 in full. This legislation improves patient care, strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration, and helps address healthcare access challenges across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.