

Submitter: Ryan Baker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

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May 10, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
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Subject: Opposition to House Bill 3824 – Written Testimony

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 3824, which seeks to expand the scope of practice for physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapy assistants (PTAs) to include spinal and extra-spinal manipulation, needle insertion, and vaccinations, while limiting chiropractors' use of descriptors such as "physiotherapy" and "physical therapy." As a Chiropractor in Oregon, I believe this bill poses significant risks to public safety, undermines the integrity of distinct healthcare professions, and threatens the future of chiropractic care in Oregon.

Chiropractic care, as defined in ORS Chapter 684, involves specialized diagnosis and treatment of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, particularly through high-velocity, low-amplitude (HVLA) spinal adjustments. Chiropractors undergo rigorous training—over 4,200 hours, including extensive coursework in spinal manipulation—to ensure safe and effective care. In contrast, physical therapy training (ORS Chapter 688) focuses on rehabilitation and movement restoration, with limited emphasis on HVLA techniques or invasive procedures like needle insertion. Allowing PTs and PTAs to perform these specialized procedures without comparable education raises serious concerns about patient safety, including risks of injury from improperly executed manipulations or complications from needle-based interventions.

Furthermore, HB3824's proposed restrictions on chiropractors' use of terms like "physiotherapy" unfairly target our profession while granting PTs unprecedented procedural overlap. This creates confusion for patients seeking distinct care models and erodes the unique role of chiropractic in Oregon's healthcare system. If PTs and PTAs are permitted to perform HVLA manipulation, the long-term viability of chiropractic as a profession could be jeopardized, diminishing patient access to specialized care.

I urge the Legislature to reject HB3824 to protect public safety and preserve the integrity of Oregon's healthcare professions. The Oregon Chiropractic Association

and Acupuncture associations have rightly highlighted the dangers of this bill, and I stand with them in opposition. Please prioritize patient well-being and professional clarity by maintaining clear boundaries between chiropractic and physical therapy scopes of practice.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I respectfully request that you vote against HB3824.

Sincerely,

Ryan Baker DC, PC