

Submitter:

Lesley Hendricks

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3824

As a current licensed chiropractic physician and a former licensed acupuncturist, I write to express qualified opposition to Oregon House Bill 3824.

I routinely refer patients to physical therapists (PTs) for rehabilitation and exercise therapy. While I support certain aspects of this bill, such as PTs having the ability to prescribe durable medical equipment, I am deeply concerned about provisions that authorize PTs to perform invasive procedures without proper extensive training.

Both the Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the Oregon Medical Board of Acupuncture have expressed opposition to these provisions. This is not a matter of professional protectionism—it is about public safety, evidence-based standards, and maintaining the integrity of each profession's specialized expertise. Expanding the scope of practice for physical therapists in Oregon is setting a dangerous legal and clinical precedent that prioritizes professional convenience over patient-centered policies. These changes would lower safety standards and create patient confusion about provider roles.

Spinal manipulation is a high-velocity, low-amplitude technique involving precise biomechanical assessment requires years of specialized education and technique training to perform safely and effectively. Dry needling involves the insertion of solid filiform needles into the body, and is not fundamentally different from practicing acupuncture; it is, in essence, practicing Traditional Chinese Medicine without the proper education or training. These procedures, when performed without the depth of training required in chiropractic and acupuncture education, pose serious legitimate risks to patient safety.

I support targeted scope modernization but oppose the inclusion of spinal and extra-spinal manipulation and dry needling without extensive, standardized postgraduate training.

I request clarification regarding physical therapists' authority to order imaging, and caution against allowing such access without the same clinical training and accountability required of other diagnostic providers. I urge lawmakers to amend HB 3824 to remove these high-risk expansions and preserve the integrity of regulated clinical disciplines in Oregon.