

SB 408 - Opposition Testimony
Senate Health Care - Hearing Room B

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, for the record my name is Johnny Galver and I am the head Physical Therapist, President & Owner of BPM Physical Therapy here in Salem.

I am also a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Oregon which represents more than 1,700 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students in the state of Oregon. As you may be aware, APTA Oregon seeks to improve the health and quality of life of individuals in society by advancing physical therapist practice, education, and research, and by increasing the awareness and understanding of physical therapy's role in the state's health care system. With that mission in mind, I am here today to share APTA Oregon's **strong opposition** to SB 408.

With Oregon facing significant health care provider shortages across all types of providers, now is not the time to add an additional bureaucratic burden and impede conversations about access to care, as SB 408 would do.

As Oregon grapples with these health care workforce challenges, it is especially important that these conversations continue to be centered in the legislative process where ample engagement can occur, and not delegated to an un-elected commission that is unlikely to prioritize access to high quality and affordable care for Oregonians. Further challenging, is that in the current language of SB 408, there are no provisions about ways to engage members of the public and receive feedback on any requests that come before the committee.

The dash 1 amendment further complicates and creates confusion about how to handle scope of practice requests by limiting the professions that the provisions of the bill would apply to. Again, Oregon should be looking for ways to streamline ways to allow providers to practice at the top of their scopes based on their education and training – not creating confusing bureaucratic processes as this bill does.

It is worth nothing that, to the best of my knowledge, no stakeholder engagement has occurred with providers or professions impacted by SB 408 during the interim or during this legislative session. This is concerning given the significant impact that would likely be felt throughout our health care system if this bill were to pass.

On behalf of APTA Oregon, and our members, I urge the Senate Health Care Committee to not advance SB 408.