

Submitter: Sasha Kolbeck  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

As a physical therapist and small business owner of a physical therapy clinic, I am requesting your support of HB 3824. Part of the bill is the protection of the terms of PT (physical therapist), DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy), and physical therapy. The term DPT is being used by a national gym which has a location in the Portland metro area. This is misrepresentation of professional designations within the field of physical therapy. Our clinic patients who are members of this gym are reporting confusion thinking the personal trainers are physical therapists. One of my patients is a family practice physician and he was quite concerned of the misrepresentation for his patients . Life Time Fitness, is currently utilizing the trademark 'DPT': Dynamic Personal Training' for their fitness program. There are individuals at LifeTime that become "Dynamic Personal Trainers." Our profession believes that this use of the acronym 'DPT' is and will further cause confusion among consumers, as this abbreviation is widely recognized in the field of physical therapy as representing the Doctorate in Physical Therapy, a professional degree held by over 99% of physical therapists in the United States, according to data from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) officially recognizes 'DPT' as the abbreviation for the Doctorate in Physical Therapy. However, Life Time Fitness's use of the same abbreviation for their Dynamic Physical Training program is causing unnecessary confusion and has the potential to mislead consumers about the nature and qualifications associated with their services and potential harm to patients.

In addition to the issues with Life Time Fitness, one of our patients prior to coming to our clinic was at a chiropractic clinic with a physical therapy prescription from their surgeon. The patient was not told that no one at the clinic was a physical therapist. It wasn't until they had a follow up with their surgeon that he recognized the clinic as a chiropractic clinic and that the clinic was not qualified to provide prehab physical therapy for surgery.

All of these above examples show the need for term protection to help ensure patients can make informed decisions and receive the appropriate and qualified care needed. Our bill will provide term protection to prevent misrepresentation and protection of consumers and patients. Term protection is necessary to ensure clear communication in the health and wellness industry and to prevent any misinformation that may impact consumer decisions. We believe that respecting professional designations is essential for maintaining transparency and credibility within the

healthcare sector.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
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