

Submitter: Meghan OMalley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

My name is Meghan O'Malley, PT, DPT and I am an orthopedic physical therapist that has been practicing for over 6 years. For 3 of those years, I had practiced dry needling in other states prior to moving to Oregon. Dry needling is a safe practice with the proper training. I've had over 100+ hours of additional training in the practice and that is not counting the extensive doctorate level training we undergo as physical therapists. Dry needling is currently an accepted treatment model in 46 states, and shows significant benefit to patients with orthopedic and neurologic conditions. Additionally this bill will help streamline healthcare access for Oregonians (listed below).

HB 3824 will align Oregon with national best practices to enhance patient safety, improve

accessibility, and reduce healthcare costs.

I'm asking you to support HB 3824 so that Oregon can:

? Align the practice of physical therapy in Oregon with the Model Practice Act established

by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy – in some cases expanding care

that is available in 46 others states, but currently not available in Oregon.

? Allow physical therapists to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application. This ability is vitally important especially given Oregon's shortage of providers and can help ensure that patients get adequate accommodations quickly and

without unnecessary delay. This care also aligns with privileges that PTs have in 13 other states.

? Improve access to and timeliness of patient imaging by allowing PTs to order and interpret imaging. Over 10 other states have taken this action to help reduce patient cost

burdens and improve patient outcomes by ensuring timeliness of care.

? Ensures patient safety by protecting the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy or DPT" to ensure that only those holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy are permitted to use this title and abbreviation. Currently, some entities are inappropriately utilizing "DPT", as an abbreviation for dynamic personal training, which is misleading for patients

in Oregon. The title Doctor of Physical Therapy and DPT should be reserved solely for

those individuals who have gone through that level of rigorous training and education.

? Enhances patient safety by adopting statutory language included in the PT Model Practice Act related to sexual misconduct to ensure that the PT licensing board has appropriate authority related to misconduct that is verbal, physical, and also through electronic means.

I urge you to support this legislation for the benefit of Oregonians in need.

Thank you for your time,

Meghan O'Malley, PT, DPT