

Submitter: Allison Stone
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Support HB 3824 to Improve Patient Care and Safety in Oregon

I urge you to support HB 3824, a critical piece of legislation that will align Oregon with national best practices in physical therapy. This bill is essential to enhancing patient safety, expanding access to care, and reducing healthcare costs across our state.

Why HB 3824 Matters:

Aligns Oregon with National Standards

HB 3824 brings Oregon's physical therapy laws in line with the Model Practice Act established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. This alignment will expand care options currently available in 46 other states but still restricted in Oregon.

Streamlines Disability Placard and License Plate Certification

The bill allows physical therapists to certify disability placard or license plate applications—an important step toward improving access to accommodations, particularly in light of Oregon's healthcare provider shortage. Thirteen other states already allow this, reducing unnecessary delays for patients.

Improves Access to Timely, Cost-Effective Imaging

HB 3824 enables physical therapists to order and interpret imaging when appropriate. More than 10 states have adopted similar provisions, improving patient outcomes through quicker diagnoses and lowering overall healthcare costs by eliminating unnecessary provider visits.

Protects the Integrity of the "Doctor of Physical Therapy" Title

To protect patients and uphold professional standards, the bill ensures that only those with a doctoral degree in physical therapy can use the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy" or the abbreviation "DPT." Misuse of these titles—such as for "dynamic personal training"—is misleading and erodes trust in the healthcare system.

Dry Needling

I also urge you to support the inclusion of dry needling within the physical therapy scope of practice in Oregon. Dry needling is a safe, evidence-based technique used by licensed physical therapists to relieve pain and improve muscle function. It is taught in accredited physical therapy programs and post-professional training courses, and is already within the legal scope of practice for physical therapists in over 35 states. Physical therapists are highly trained in anatomy and musculoskeletal systems, making them well-qualified to perform this technique safely and effectively. By supporting HB 3824, Oregon can modernize its approach to physical therapy, improve patient outcomes, and ensure patients receive timely, accurate, and trustworthy care.