

Submitter: Penny Wingert
On Behalf Of: HB 3824
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care
From: Penny Wingert, RN, Retired
Bend, Oregon

I am writing to urge your support for HB3824 (PT Modernization Act) to expand the Scope of Practice for Physical Therapists in Oregon to include Dry Needling, ability to order diagnostic imaging for patients, and durable medical equipment (DME). This would improve access to appropriate treatment while reducing unnecessary delays and costs.

As the mother of a Physical Therapist with a DPT I witnessed first-hand the rigorous education, training, and exam required for Licensure as a Physical Therapist. The countless hours of study and hands on clinical practice provide a solid foundation for Physical Therapists. They are well versed in anatomy, pathology, and clinical decision-making-and fully capable of determining when imaging or mobility support is needed. In addition, PTs must take additional course work to provide Dry Needling. They are highly trained in the techniques required.

As a Registered Nurse for more than 40 years, I worked in Oregon for 14 years. Currently, patients are required to schedule an appointment with providers in Urgent Care, PCPs or go to the ER to obtain imaging and treatment. This results in significant delays, additional cost for the patient, and adds to our overburdened healthcare system. HB 3824 will align Oregon with national best practices. It will also decrease patient wait time for imaging and assist in more rapid recovery resulting in reduction of overall healthcare costs.

I urge you to support HB 3824 for the benefit of all Oregonians.