

Submitter: NICOLE CLEARY
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Committee Chairs:

I am an Oregon resident and I am urging you to support HB3824.

Passing the PT Modernization Act (HB 3824A) would

1. Authorize physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging,
2. Allow PTs to certify a patient's disability placard or license plate application
3. Permit PTs to prescribe durable medical equipment (DME),
4. Allow PTs to provide dry needling therapy with appropriate required training
5. Provide protection for the acronym DPT (Doctoral of Physical Therapy). At this time personal trainers use the term DPT for "dynamic personal trainer" which is confusing and misleading to healthcare consumers in Oregon.

As a healthcare consumer in the state, allowing physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging would improve access to care and facilitate prompt diagnosis. At present, in order to obtain needed diagnostic imaging, I have to wait weeks/months to see a specialist, usually at a high cost to me, just to hopefully obtain a prescription for imaging, and then wait additional weeks or months to then obtain the images. Obtaining a prescription for imaging directly from my physical therapist would save me time and money. At least 13 other states already allow physical therapists to provide this level of care and given their doctoral level training in anatomy, pathology, and differential diagnosis, it is appropriate and in-line with established practice.

Additionally, I ask that you support the specific inclusion for PT's in Oregon to include dry needling as a treatment option. I know how effective this modality is for treating the types of injuries that I have had in the past, and I wish it was an option that my PT would have been able to use for me. As a health care consumer in Oregon, my choices for receiving care that I know is effective for me is limited by restricting the practice of dry needling to exclude licensed physical therapists. This evidence-based approach differs significantly from traditional Chinese acupuncture, as it is embedded within a broader Western medicine based movement-science framework. The legislature can require PTs who wish to perform dry needling to complete additional training and certification programs to ensure quality and patient safety.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of the PT Modernization Act (HB 3824A).