

Written Testimony in Support of HB 3824A – PT Modernization Act

Submitted by: Sara Lindauer PT, DPT

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To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3824A – Modernizing the Physical Therapy Practice Act

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 3824A, the PT Modernization Act. My name is Sara Lindauer and I am a licensed physical therapist practicing in [City/Town], Oregon. I have dedicated my career to helping people recover from injury, manage chronic conditions, and regain their independence and quality of life. I appreciate the committee’s efforts to consider legislation that improves healthcare access and delivery in our state.

HB 3824A would allow physical therapists to issue disability placards, order diagnostic imaging, and perform dry needling—services that fall within our education and clinical training and are already authorized in many other states. These changes would not only modernize the Physical Therapy Practice Act, but they would also address some of the most avoidable inefficiencies in patient care today.

In my practice, I frequently see patients whose conditions clearly warrant medical documentation, imaging, or dry needling interventions. However, under current law, I must refer them to another provider for these services—even though I have the training and clinical reasoning skills to determine their necessity. This results in duplicated visits, longer delays in care, and unnecessary costs for patients and the system at large.

I want to emphasize that these inefficiencies are not minor inconveniences. They represent real barriers to care that affect the health outcomes and quality of life of my patients. Many must miss additional work, travel farther, or pay multiple co-pays—just to receive care that could have been provided during their physical therapy visit. These are barriers that we can remove, simply by aligning our scope of practice with what physical therapists are educated and licensed to do.

As healthcare providers, we are all striving for a system that is more patient-centered, efficient, and equitable. HB 3824A takes a meaningful step in that direction. It enables physical therapists to contribute more fully to the care team, reduces administrative burden, and ensures patients get the care they need without unnecessary delay.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 3824A and help make Oregon's healthcare system more responsive and effective for the people we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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