

Submitter: Justine Cosman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

My name is Justine Cosman, and I am a licensed physical therapist practicing in Oregon. I hold board certifications in orthopaedics and therapeutic pain science, and I serve patients at Whole Body Health Physical Therapy. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3824A, the PT Modernization Act.

As a clinician deeply embedded in the daily realities of patient care, I see how outdated statutes can create unnecessary delays and barriers for those who most need our help. HB 3824A proposes critical updates that align Oregon's practice laws with the current scope, training, and standards of Doctors of Physical Therapy nationwide.

This bill would enable physical therapists to order diagnostic imaging, prescribe durable medical equipment, certify disability placards, perform dry needling, and maintain the integrity of the DPT designation. Each of these changes is grounded in our extensive education and clinical competencies. More importantly, they are designed to improve outcomes for Oregonians by removing administrative bottlenecks that prolong suffering and inflate healthcare costs.

The inclusion of dry needling is especially significant. This is a powerful and evidence-supported intervention for musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction—yet in Oregon, patients are routinely denied access due to outdated regulation. I have personally seen how this technique, when applied appropriately by trained professionals, can offer relief where other treatments have failed. This is about more than scope; it's about giving patients safe, effective options in their own communities.

HB 3824A is more than a modernization bill. It is a commitment to better care, clinical efficiency, and honoring the full capabilities of our profession. I respectfully urge you to advance this legislation and support the future of physical therapy in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Justine Cosman, PT, DPT, OCS, TPS
Whole Body Health Physical Therapy