

Submitter: Lindsey Soule
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Committee Chairs:

I am an Oregon resident and future physical therapist enrolled in my second year of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Pacific University. I am urging you to support HB3824.

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

Additionally, I ask that you support the permission of physical therapists ability to prescribe durable medical equipment (DME). Physical therapists and students like myself get the privilege of long appointments with our patients, which gives us the ability to get to know their specific needs when it comes to assistive devices and other DME. Physical therapists are also movement specialists who perform extensive physical examinations in many different settings. The ability for physical therapists to prescribe DME will eliminate many of the barriers to receiving necessary equipment and ensure that patients receive the right piece of equipment for their unique set of circumstances.

As a student physical therapist, I also urge you to support the protection of the use of Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) for licensed physical therapists that graduate from accredited Doctor of Physical Therapy programs. I am currently enrolled in a Doctor of Physical Therapy program and understand firsthand the rigor of these programs and the honor that comes with getting to put those letters behind your name. Patients deserve to know that the people providing their care have gone through the proper training and education to administer physical therapy treatment. Therefore, protecting the use of DPT for those who have gone through that proper training and education is of the utmost importance.

Finally, I ask that you support the specific inclusion for PT's in Oregon to include dry needling in their toolkit of treatment options. The precision and ongoing assessment offered by PT-led dry needling—already practiced safely and effectively outside Oregon—can be a valuable tool to assist in quicker recovery with lasting relief for many conditions. This evidence-based approach differs significantly from traditional Chinese acupuncture, as it is embedded within a broader Western medicine based movement-science framework.

In conclusion, I strongly encourage you to support HB 3824 in order to modernize the physical therapy practice act in Oregon and enhance patient care. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

Respectfully,
Lindsey Soule