

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature

From: Jennifer Bell
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Patient & Administrative Staff

RE: Support for HB 3824A - The PT Modernization Act

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Bell, and I write to you today not only as someone who works in the administrative side of healthcare, but as a patient whose quality of life has been directly improved by physical therapy. I urge you to support HB 3824A, the PT Modernization Act, which updates and expands the scope of physical therapy in Oregon to meet today's health care realities.

Having seen both sides of the care experience, I know how crucial it is for patients to have timely, comprehensive access to physical therapy. This bill empowers physical therapists to do more for patients—including prescribing durable medical equipment, administering vaccines, and certifying parking permits for people with disabilities. These aren't just bureaucratic improvements; they are life-changing steps for patients who often face delays and unnecessary barriers to care.

Physical therapists are some of the most knowledgeable and trusted providers in the musculoskeletal space. When you're living with chronic pain, recovering from surgery, or navigating a disabling condition, you don't want to be sent back and forth between offices just to access basic care tools. HB 3824A reflects a thoughtful modernization that allows PTs to fully utilize their training and build more seamless, person-centered care.

This legislation also acknowledges the increasing importance of telehealth in physical therapy, something that became essential during the pandemic and continues to be a lifeline for patients with mobility or transportation limitations. It affirms that physical therapy can evolve with the times without sacrificing quality or oversight.

Please vote yes on HB 3824A. As a patient, and as someone who supports health care systems from the inside, I can say with confidence that these changes are not just reasonable—they are necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bell