

Submitter: Isaiah Cappelen
On Behalf Of: Improved Patient Access to Care
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Isaiah Cappelen, and I am a current doctor of physical therapy student in Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3824A, the PT Practice Modernization Act. As a future physical therapist preparing to enter practice in this state, I believe it is vitally important that Oregon's laws recognize the advanced education, clinical training, and expertise that DPT graduates bring to patient care. Passage of HB 3824A would directly impact my ability to serve patients by ensuring that I can provide the same high standard of care that physical therapists are already authorized to deliver in many other states. For example, the ability to perform dry needling, which is supported by research and used in 46 other states, would expand the treatment options I can offer patients struggling with pain or other issues shown to be effectively managed by the administration of dry needling. Additionally, allowing physical therapists to order and interpret imaging will significantly improve the timeliness and efficiency of care, particularly for patients in rural and underserved communities, where access to other providers can take months before a consult. This bill also addresses important issues of patient safety by protecting the title "Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)" to ensure clarity and trust for those seeking care. It also strengthens the Board's authority to address sexual misconduct, including electronic communications, to better safeguard patients. I am proud to be part of the next generation of physical therapists in Oregon, and I respectfully urge you to pass HB 3824A to modernize our practice act, expand patient access, and improve health outcomes across the state. Thank you for your time and consideration.