

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

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Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3824A – The Physical Therapy Modernization Act

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan Ford, and I am a licensed physical therapist practicing in outpatient orthopedics in Oregon. I am writing to offer my strong support for HB 3824A, the Physical Therapy Modernization Act. This legislation represents a necessary and timely update to the scope of practice for physical therapists in our state.

As someone who works directly with patients recovering from injuries, surgeries, and chronic musculoskeletal conditions, I see firsthand how expanding the practical tools available to physical therapists can dramatically improve both access to care and clinical outcomes. HB 3824A is a forward-thinking step that recognizes the training and expertise physical therapists already possess, and it rightly removes barriers that hinder efficient, patient-centered care.

Allowing physical therapists to prescribe durable medical equipment, administer vaccines under established protocols, and sign disabled parking permit applications are logical extensions of our role as movement and mobility specialists. These tasks are often integral to the patient care process and, under current rules, require unnecessary referrals or delays. Similarly, affirming our ability to use sonographic imaging for clinical decision-making and modernizing telehealth authority will ensure that care delivery is both evidence-based and responsive to evolving healthcare needs.

This bill also reflects a broader vision: to elevate physical therapy's role in addressing primary and preventive care needs. By expanding our scope responsibly, HB 3824A not only improves patient access but also supports a more collaborative and holistic healthcare system. It empowers clinicians like myself to practice at the top of our license while easing administrative burdens that detract from direct patient care.

I urge the committee to support this legislation. It is an important and overdue modernization that will serve both clinicians and the communities we care for.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ford, PT, DPT
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