

Submitter: Tony Tran
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3824

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3824, which would allow physical therapists to perform high-velocity, low-amplitude (HVLA) thrust adjustments, a procedure traditionally reserved for licensed chiropractors and osteopathic physicians with specialized training.

As a Doctor of Chiropractic with extensive postdoctoral training in spinal biomechanics and neurological assessment, I am deeply concerned about the patient safety, educational standards, and scope-of-practice overreach this bill represents.

HVLA adjustments are not simple manipulations. They are precise, controlled thrusts requiring years of anatomical, neurological, and biomechanical training to be performed safely. Chiropractors undergo over 4,200 hours of doctoral-level education, with specific focus on diagnosing musculoskeletal and neurological conditions, radiographic interpretation, and hands-on adjusting techniques. In contrast, physical therapy programs, while rigorous in rehabilitative care, do not offer the same depth of training in spinal manipulation or differential diagnosis related to high-velocity thrust procedures.

Allowing PTs to perform HVLA thrusts, without equivalent education, clinical training, or licensure requirements, would compromise patient safety. These procedures carry inherent risks, including vertebral artery dissection, nerve damage, and joint injury, especially when applied without comprehensive diagnostic knowledge.

This bill also blurs professional boundaries and creates scope-of-practice confusion. Collaboration between chiropractors and physical therapists works best when each profession respects its unique competencies. Expanding PTs into HVLA thrust work undermines that synergy and sets a dangerous precedent for unqualified practice expansion.

I urge you to protect the public by rejecting HB 3824. Let us prioritize safety, expertise, and evidence-based care by ensuring only those with the proper education and licensure—Doctors of Chiropractic—perform these advanced procedures.