

March 16, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak, members of the House Health Committee,

I am the administrator of the Oregon Urology Institute and the Oregon SurgiCenter in Springfield. We are a 27-provider medical group that is the only provider of urology care in Lane and Douglas Counties. Our group employs approximately 160 people, with 30 working in the Oregon SurgiCenter. Our SurgiCenter does over 2,000 surgeries and 5,000 procedures annually.

I am submitting this letter to request your support for HB 2464, which would create a common-sense solution to the shortage of certified surgical technologists in Oregon. There is a real shortage of available surgical technologists in our area. The current avenues for surgical technologist certification have not met the demands from the health care industry and there are options to solve the problem.

So, this bill will solve the staffing shortage. This solution achieves the goal of maintaining adequate training and education for surgical technologists by obtaining certification and this will create a unique opportunity to create more jobs in rural Oregon.

My facility would benefit directly by having an apprenticeship program available for surgical technologists and we are excited to be a training site to help our staffing and the staffing needs of other surgical facilities in the area.

I strongly believe that including NCCT as an accrediting body to the current surgical technology certifying bodies would enhance the workforce and quality of care to patients significantly. We have been impressed by Health STAR Initiative's proposed clinical programs and the outline on how potential surgical technologists can have on the ground experience in addition to matching clinical education currently required.

Further, we have been impressed by the infection prevention continuing education that has already been made available by OASCA and the newly formed partnership with Health STAR Initiative. Next month, there is a webinar that covers Best Practices in Surgical Instrument Reprocessing, and a second session on Conducting a Moisture Assessment. This is taught by nationally recognized faculty and will provide an interactive opportunity for staff to learn more about infection prevention.

Thank you for your time and consideration to support HB 2464.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry FitzPatrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "FitzPatrick" clearly distinguishable.

Terry FitzPatrick
Administrator

Cc: Representative John Lively