

# HB2464 is a Working Solution to the Shortage of Certified Surgical Technologists in Oregon Health Care Facilities

**The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the shortage of qualified Surgical Technologists in Oregon** and across the nation. Oregon hospitals offering candidates \$10-15 per hour pay increases struggle to fill positions and retain staff. At least 3 of only 4 training programs in the state delayed or cancelled a 2020 cohort. The **Health Staffing, Apprenticeship and Resources Initiative (Health STAR)** and the Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (OASCA) **have a solution.**

**HB2464** is supported by certified Surgical Technologists and Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) across the state and will rapidly expand the staffing pipeline by qualifying successful Health STAR apprentices, who earn wages as they acquire the necessary education and experience in direct patient care, to participate in existing certification exams.

**HB2464 will utilize the existing NCCT Accreditation, which has proven comparable to other existing accreditation bodies.**

	High School or GED Pre-requisite?	Graduate Surgical Tech Program by Degree or Certificate?	Complete Surgical Tech Competency Testing?	Military Experience Option?	Continuing Education?
CAAHEP	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
NBSTA	Yes	Yes - CAAHEP or ABHES only	Yes	Yes	Yes
NCCT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**HB 2464 does not restrict the current accreditation bodies for surgical technologists; It simply provides an additional pathway for students to participate in the NCCT pathway.**

HB 2464 has the support of and expressions of interest from the following partners:

