

March 18, 2021

Chair Pruszek, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden

My name is Samantha Miles and I have been a certified surgical tech for 10 years and a certified surgical first assist for six years. I am currently employed at River Road Surgery Center-ENT based practice in Salem, OR.

My path to becoming a certified surgical tech required sacrifice. At the time, there were only two surgical tech programs. They were located in Portland and Gresham. The program I attended was Monday thru Friday 12-5pm. Living in Salem, I had over a two hour drive daily. It was difficult to hold a steady part-time job with the demands of the program and the commute. I was one of the fortunate few that had a family willing to help support me throughout my schooling.

A perfect example of the ideal candidate for the apprenticeship program currently works at River Road Surgery Center. She is a certified Medical Assistant and a certified sterile processing tech. She would like to progress upwards in her medical career, but due to economic and geographic factors needs to work full time. The program would be the best solution.

As a board member of the Health Star Initiative, I believe this apprenticeship program allows equal opportunity for all Oregonian's seeking to advance their education in the medical field despite any potential financial or logistical barriers. A hand on experience combined with a standardized scholastic program provides a skilled and educated surgical technician that will promote patient safety in the operating room.

My employers- Willamette Ent surgeons have submitted a letter in support of House bill HB 2464.

Thank you for your time.

Samantha Miles

CSFA

River Road Surgery Center