



**SURGERY CENTER OF  
SOUTHERN OREGON LLC**



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Accreditation Association  
for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.

*Partners In Health*

March 24, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak, members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing you today to request your support for HB 2464, which would create a common-sense solution to the shortage of certified surgical technologists in Oregon. In addition, I request that you consider the public health impact the inaccessibility of Certified Surgical Technologist Training programs within the entire state of Oregon

The Surgery Center of Southern Oregon is a Physician owned Ambulatory surgery center, with CMS Certification and AAAHC accreditation. We operate up to 5 ORs each day, performing over 4500 surgeries a year. We employ 6 Full-time and 1 On-Call Surgical Techs.

- We participate in providing clinical rotations for several educational institutions in the Southern Oregon vicinity. We had actively partnered with Linn-Benton Community College to provide clinical rotation opportunities for the students enrolled in the Surgical tech program.
  - We sponsored 2 of our employees to attend and complete the program, retaining them as full-time Certified Surgical Techs after completion, as well as hiring on one other student who was able to complete the program and obtain her Certification prior to the program ending.
- Southern Oregon, if not the entire state of Oregon has a significant unmet need for Certified Surgical Techs
  - At our ASC, 3 of our 6 full-time Techs will be retirement age within the next 3 years – no community resource available to fill the void.
  - Indeed hiring resource currently has 90 positions posted for Certified Surgical Techs in the state of Oregon.
- The entire state of Oregon has 2 Certified Surgical Technologist training programs.
  - Linn-Benton Community College has not been successful in keeping their program operational – due to availability of qualified Instructors/Program Director – must be a Certified Surgical Tech with a Bachelors Degree.
- The Surgery Center of Southern Oregon leadership has initiated many conversations with local hospitals and community colleges in attempts to facilitate certification programs within the local communities to no avail.
- Certification has become the required standard for Surgical Techs in Oregon, with extremely limited opportunities for students desiring this career path to achieve success.
  - This is a career opportunity that provides a living wage, as well as contributes tremendously to the health and wellness of the communities served.
  - Certified Surgical Techs are a critical component of surgical services in any community. They provide excellence in support to the surgeons and nursing staff with critical attention to details of safety, infection prevention, and quality of care provided to our patients.

The Surgery Center of Southern Oregon Leadership is passionate regarding this unmet community need and is prepared to become actively involved in pursuing local opportunities for program development.

Sincerely,

MEGAN DIRECTOR, SURGERY CENTER OF SOUTHERN OREGON