

WE SUPPORT HB4106

Hundreds of Surgical Techs, Nurses, Physicians, Administrators Say:

Help Solve the Surgical Workforce Crisis

We the undersigned, urge the Oregon Legislature to pass the Surgical Technologist Apprenticeship program legislation in the 2022 Session.

Oregon is facing a severe and growing health workforce shortage. In our surgical fields, there are simply not enough qualified surgical technologists to meet the current need, let alone a workforce need that is expected to grow by 30% over the next two decades.

Oregon has a history of creating employment opportunities for individuals to become highly qualified and skilled in many technical fields through work-based apprenticeship programs - programs that allow candidates to earn a living at the same time that they are completing the highest level of education programs. Medical assistant apprenticeship, nursing assistant apprenticeship, highly skilled electrical system apprenticeship programs have proven to be effective, safe and an excellent opportunity, especially for single parents, BIPOC communities, young people and others.

The Surgical Tech apprenticeship program, which includes:

- The highest level of educational standards and national certification;
- A non-profit “Joint Committee” oversight board that complies with ORS660 to set guidelines and establish safety provisions;
- The opportunity for communities of color, single parents, low-income Oregonians and young people to work towards these well-paying jobs in the health care field; and,
- Compliance with all Oregon health statutes and regulations.

Work based apprenticeship programs are proven to produce highly skilled workers in the medical field. These programs offer an alternative to traditional college based programs, but will not replace existing programs. Together, these two paths can help Oregon begin to fill the clear deficit in health care workers in the surgical field.

We urge your support for the Surgical Technologist Expansion Act of 2022, HB 4106.

Sincerely,

Nellyda Anslow, RN
Jesseye Arrambide, RN, BSN, CNOR
Hope Arrington, RN
Rocio Ayala
Candice Bartlett, RN
Aimee Baxter, RN
Jackie Bech, RN
Kim Bemrose, MSN, RN, CNOR
Molly Bennett
Sarah Bertsch
Randall Bissinger, MD
Stephanie Borgen, CST
Sarah Breckenridge
Daniel Brinlee, RN
Linda Burr, MA
Jerry Cain
Rochelle Chambers
Craig C. Chow, MD
Kelli Coehlo, MBA, CASC
Colleen Conley, RN

Cindy DeGroft
Dan Dodge, BSN, RN, CNOR
Mark Dolan, MD
Ivan Dorohov
William Epstein, MD
Aaron Fisk, RN
Terry Fitzpatrick
Lisa Freeman
Jon Gainer, RN
Julie Gilreath, RN
Ed Gonzalez, CST
Christina Graver
Ryan Grimm
Sonny Hart, CST
Julie Haslebacher
Jessica Hawkins, RN
Aaron Hendry, RN
Tara Henke
Nancy Hetrick, RN
Jennifer Jungwirth, RN

Sara Davis, CST

Individual Signatories Continued

Chris Keaton, RN
Joseph Kelley, RNFA
Erin King, CST
Eric Laro, MD
Patricia Laudette
Steve Loftesnes, MBA
Erin Lowrie, CST
David Lucht
Brion Lutz, RN
Chela Martin
Gerald Martin
Douglas Martindale, CST/CSFA
Jennifer Melhuse
Samantha Miles, CSFA
Christine Miley, RN
Vickie Miller
Jamie Miller, BSN, RN, CPHQ
Claire Miller, RN, BSN, BS, CAIP
Sue Mulkey, CMA
Michelle Myers, CST CRCST
Tammy Narramore, RN
Daniel Nickels
Mark Norling, MD
Kecia Norling, RN, MBA, CNOR, CASC
Susie Parker
Peggy Pashby, RN
William Pethick
Cody Pierce, RN
Teresa Prichard, RN
Aubyn Reyes, RT
Robin Rich
Ella Salisbury, RN
Robert Sandmeier, MD
Vivian Schiedler, MD
Greg Shubert
Tori Smalley
Amy Smith, RN
Ruth Sorenson, RN
Darla Sowa
Tammy Spohn, MBA, RN, NEA-C
Elizabeth Sullivan, MHA, BSN, RN, CSSM, CASC
Alexandria Tobin
Richard Tobin, MD
Adam Tolley, RN
Jeremiah Valdez, CST
Deanna Walker, RN
Jeffrey Welder, MD
Deborah Werst, RN
David White
Ronald D. Wobig, MD FAAOS
Xeng Xiong, RN
Rosetta Ziebart, CMA
Robert Zirschky, MD

Jonathan Katz

Organizations in Support of HB4106

Norling Surgical Solutions
Oregon Medical Association
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health
Systems
Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Assn.
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmologic
Physicians
Oregon Nurses Association



Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs)

Ashland Surgery Center
BSM Surgery Center
Cascade Spine Center
Cascade SurgiCenter
Center for Specialty Surgery
Columbia River Surgery Center
East Pavilion Surgery Center
East Portland Surgery Center
Eye Health Eastside Surgery Center
Eye Surgery Center
Eye Surgery Center (Medford)
Eye Surgery Institute
Grants Pass Surgery Center
Interstate Ambulatory Surgery Center
Klamath Surgery Center
Lane Surgery Center
McKenzie Surgery Center
Medical Eye Center
Northbank Surgical Center
Northwest Spine and Pain
Oregon Eye Surgery Center
Oregon Outpatient Surgery Center
Oregon Specialists Surgery Center
Oregon SurgiCenter
River Road Surgery Center
Riverbend Surgery Center
Salem Endoscopy Center
Salem Outpatient Surgery Center
Skyline Ambulatory Surgery Center
Slocum Surgery Center
South Portland Surgical Center
Spine Surgery Center of Eugene
Sunnybrook Ambulatory Surgery Center
Sunset Surgical Center
Surgery Center at Tanasbourne
Surgery Center of Mt. Scott
The Corvallis Clinic Surgery Center
Willamette Surgery Center
Wilshire Surgery Center
Yamhill Valley Surgical Center

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ASCs in Support of HB4106

