

Submitter: Angie Hansen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4106

Good afternoon,

I am a Certified Surgical Technologist (CST), and I am in opposition of HB 4106. I have been a CST for almost 11 years and am a graduate of the Surgical Technology Program at Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) in Gresham, Oregon. When I graduated in 2011, I obtained an Associate Degree in Applied Science as well as my National Certification with the NBSTSA. I have traveled cross-country for this line of work and feel my education I gained in the MHCC program has been monumental in my success.

I became an educator for the MHCC Surgical Technology program in 2019, and I am proud of the outstanding students we have had in our past graduating classes and the reputation our program upholds. I work closely with our clinical partners in the area and have also worked with other clinical sites in many of the rural cities in Oregon for student placements. Surgical Technologists are an integral part of the operating room team, and we consistently have managers and recruiters that seek out our graduates to hire from the immediate area, as well as other locations. Our clinical partners also provide clinical experiences for our students. I have been told by our clinical partners how well prepared our students are for the operating room to begin working in an entry-level position upon graduation. I understand the healthcare field is suffering from a shortage of workers, but I do not feel an apprenticeship is the answer. The operating room is a multi-faceted environment and is not meant for everyone. The amount of technical training that goes into learning this profession is extensive.

Our program is a 2-year program which not only teaches sterile/aseptic technique (crucial in the operating room), but we also teach our students law & ethics in the operating room, soft skills (communication, conflict resolution, professional/affective behaviors), sterile processing, patient care and safety of all ages, and our students complete nine months of their first year in the program in lab to learn new OR skills. Once the second year of the program begins, the students start their clinical rotations, gaining real experience/training in the operating room with preceptors guiding them. Along with their clinical experience during the second year of the program, the students attend didactic courses that cover each specialty (General, OB/GYN, Urology, Orthopedics, ENT, Plastics, Oralmaxillofacial, Burns, Neurosurgery, Eyes, Cardiothoracic). Our second-year students complete a total of 720 clinical hours before they graduate.

The time and training that goes into this program and into the students' futures is invaluable. The operating room environment relies on the technical training that the accredited Surgical Technology programs provide. Please consider my opposition of this bill. Thank you for your time.

Angie Hansen