

February 16, 2022

## Surgical Tech Apprenticeship Helps Rural Patients

To Whom it May Concern:

Please add my name to sign the petition for this bill.

I have had several employees mention their desire to become surgical scrub technicians but unable to find a way to this career in our rural area here in Southern Oregon. The only program to become a certified surgical scrub tech is in the Portland area. Many of these young individuals are unable to move to Portland for this program.

I have a huge volume of patients needing my skill set as an oculoplastic surgeon, but my main problem is a critical staffing shortage, both in my clinic as well as at the surgery center here in Ashland. We have been experiencing extreme difficulty finding and hiring certified scrub techs for the surgery center. An apprenticeship program would greatly alleviate this problem.

Thank you,  
Dr. Vivian Schiedler



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