

Submitter: Lori Corrigall
On Behalf Of: 4106
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

VOTE NO on HB4106!!!

Hello, I have been a surgical technologist for over 11 years and have experience working in a variety of facilities ranging from rural to large centers in multiple states. I agree that our area is in need of surgical technologists, but there is a National shortage of all healthcare providers in general. The answer to this is NOT decreasing the requirements needed to practice. Working as a surgical technologist is a very stressful and intense job that requires a solid understanding of a wide variety of in-depth surgical concepts. I have not seen anything that has any details of what the apprenticeship program would look like or how it will be executed. I have seen many times that the education department of the hospital is greatly lacking, and usually have someone who has no idea about what we do as Certified Surgical Technologist. In the state of Oregon we have three programs currently accredited in Oregon are rigorously monitored by CAAHEP, ARC/STSA making sure standards are up to date and followed.

I am against this bill and feel a better solution would be for healthcare institutions to sponsor or give scholarships to people seeking new career paths, asking for a certain number of years of contracted employment after their education is finished. I know similar programs are in place for nursing, but I haven't seen anything geared towards surgical technologists. This would uphold the needed educational standard, funnel STs to specific facilities where they are needed, and help get people facing financial hardships a chance to go back to school.

I have personally seen what happens when people are allowed to scrub when they have no idea of what is going on and feel like they do. We have to **STAND UP FOR OUR PATIENTS**, and ensure they get the best care! One surgical site infection is devastating to the patient and their love ones. Not to mention the overall cost the hospital is up again.

You can ask any surgeon what makes the case go well, their answer is having a competent surgical tech that has a broad understanding of what is going on. One example of training people to preform as a surgical tech is this, working in a rural hospital we were always finding it hard to attract certified surgical tech. The hospital's solution was to train CNA's to scrub c-sections. I very fondly remember on multiple occasions having to run up to the either scheduled or stat section to help out because the CNA had no idea of anything outside of a normal c-section. They froze up and couldn't preform. This is such a scary position because this was now helping two patients not just the one. Not only is it bad for the patient, surgeon but also the person who wasn't adequately trained to understand what could or needed to be done.

We as Certified Surgical Technologist go through an accredited program to ensure that we have the best training and understanding of multiple areas in surgery. We are experts in our field and go through the proper training to become such. Laws were passed back in 2017 for a reason and needs to be preserved.

Please for our patients VOTE NO on HB4601!

Lori Corrigall
CST