

Submitter: Stephanie Austin
On Behalf Of: All CSTs in Oregon and across the USA
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

As a member of the TNAST Board of Directors, as an educator in Surgical Technology, and as a Certified Surgical Technologist of more than 18 years, I adamantly oppose this bill and encourage everyone who will be voting on this bill to reconsider. As a Surgical Technologist and a professional in healthcare, Surgical Technologists have worked too hard over the last 25-30 years to reach the point of requiring higher education for the profession. The skills and job description of the profession demand a higher degree of education than on-the-job training can provide. By passing this bill, the state of Oregon would set the profession back 30 years and will hinder Certified Surgical Technologists from receiving the competitive pay and respect that we have earned. Having on-the-job trained individuals standing in as Surgical Technologists would negatively affect patient care and the advancement of the profession. This would be irresponsible of the state of Oregon to allow this bill to pass and would put the lives of the citizens of Oregon in jeopardy when they had to seek care in the operating room. Please reconsider voting for this bill. Vote no and protect the citizens of your great state and also your own families.

Stephanie Austin, MA, CST, FAST