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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
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I have been a CST since 1984 and a surgical technology educator since 2011. While I appreciate the need for providing surgical technologists to staff facilities, this bill is a huge step backwards for the profession. The complexity of surgical cases and the training needed to provide optimal patient care has necessitated making the surgical technology degree a minimum of an associate degree. Education in all medical fields is advancing. RNs that were once ADN now many require BSN degrees or higher. CRNAs have expanded the education necessary from Master's degrees to Doctorates.

The surgical technologist is the expert in sterile technique, not the RN nor the surgeon. This knowledge is necessary to prevent or minimize surgical infections. The surgical technologist is the only employee in the operating room not required to be licensed or registered, to know that minimum educational requirements have been met. If your family member is having a surgical procedure, who would you select to be their surgical technologist?

Additionally, this will undercut the community college system in the state of Oregon. If the training necessary for this career can be learned on-the-job, what other programs or degrees will be next? Does Oregon want to be left without a strong post-secondary education system that is often the only option for first generation college students.