

Submitter: Josh Fiske
On Behalf Of: Surgical patients in Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

Dear Members of the Senate:

I am writing to you to urge you to vote NO on House Bill HB4106. If you would have asked me four years ago, I might have given you a different answer; the role of the Surgical Technologist appealed to me, but the schooling was daunting and I am a visual learner. But I faced one of my biggest challenges and graduated by the end of the year. Since then, I have been working as a CST in Grants Pass, and what I discovered is that the education I received during that 9-month program laid the foundation for how I approach my work. It gave me a deeper understanding of sterile technique, which can be the difference in a patient's life.

Requiring surgical technicians to be nationally certified ensures that a certain level of proficiency is met. It has made me more aware of not just the steps of procedures, but also why we do them. Just this week I was able to prevent a medication error, when the nurse gave me bupivacaine with epinephrine, instead of plain bupivacaine. Because I understand how detrimental this could be to the patient, I was able to not only recognize the mistake, but also able to call a "time out" and prevent the medication from being administered. Having the knowledge base empowered me to be an active advocate for this patient.

I understand that we are concerned about the lack of trained and certified surgical technologists available to meet the ever-growing patient demand. However, it is morally wrong to lower our standards to fit the needs of the day. Rather, I recommend investing in more programs like the one through Linn-Benton Community College, to increase their ability to train new professionals and expand access to this career to others across the state.

Please vote NO on HB4106.

Thank you,

Josh Fiske