

Submitter: Christina Coffman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4106

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christina Coffman and I have been a CST, Certified Surgical Technologist, since January 2010, when I graduated from my Accredited Surgical Technology program, and sat for and passed the National Certification exam. I have completed the required continuing education credits to maintain that certification, and keep me up to date on current surgical techniques, equipment, and supplies for the past 12 plus years. I have precepted and trained some of THE BEST circulating nurses and surgical technologists around. I have worked in both the hospital setting as well as the ambulatory surgery center setting. I've worked in level 1 trauma centers, small community hospitals, and pediatric hospitals. I take great pride in my work and the education I completed to get me to where I am today. I have never stopped fine tuning my skills, and always strive to provide Top-Notch patient care!

I'm not going to go down the whole list of the Surgical Technologist job description, as I'm sure AST and The OAST have spoken to our entire scope, but I will reiterate that The Surgical Technologist is an integral part of the OR Team! WE are MUCH more than "just a tech"! Some of OUR daily duties not only include preparing the OR for surgery, but also positioning patients for surgeries, prepping patients for surgeries, draping patients for surgery, counting instruments, sponges, needles, blades, etc. WE assist with hemostasis and cautery, suctioning, suturing, passing instruments to the surgeon. WE care for specimens. WE apply dressings after surgery. WE communicate directly with the surgeon as to the needs of the operation. WE understand why we are there. WE understand the structure and function of the human body, and the anatomy and physiology that go hand in hand with surgery. WE ARE experts in our field!

I am astonished and frankly offended that our local government is trying to de-value the Surgical Technology profession, by suggesting an apprentice program. The idea that you would pass a bill, without having any substantial curriculum to speak of, is just absurd. I am asking the Oregon Senate today, to OPPOSE house bill 4106. Please DO NOT devalue our profession. WE should be striving for excellence, not creating mediocrity!

Thank you for your time.

Christina Coffman, CST