



**OREGON  
ACADEMY OF  
OPHTHALMOLOGY**  
Eye Physicians & Surgeons

**TO: Chair Patterson  
Vice Chair Kennemer  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care**

**FR: Sabrina Riggs**  
Lobbyist, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology  
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**RE: Support HB 4106A**

**February 21, 2022**

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The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) is a professional association of eye physicians and surgeons who specialize in the medical and surgical treatment of eye diseases and other conditions and provide vision care services. OAO's purpose is to promote and improve the practice of medicine and surgery in relation to the eye in Oregon. We write today in strong support of HB 4106A.

All over the State, particularly in rural areas, our members have reported difficulty finding and hiring enough certified surgical technicians (CSTs). We believe that HB 4106A provides a pathway to safely train more CSTs, which will increase access. We are thankful to Representative Schouten and other bipartisan, bicameral sponsors for bringing this bill forward and for including the language in Section 1 which will ensure that ophthalmic-specific surgical tech programs are also included.

CST staff members are critical to patient safety in the operating room and to surgeon efficiency. The apprenticeship method outlined in HB 4106A is similar to the successful on-the job training our members are already doing with Ophthalmic Technicians. This hands-on training allows for a close working relationship with the physician and other medical staff, which ultimately leads to better patient care.

Respectfully, the OAO urges your support of HB 4106A.