

Submitter: Amy Turpin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

Hello,

As a CST with around a decade of experience in the OR, I am concerned by this bill. While I appreciate the need, and we really want the help, I'm wondering why we can't create a new position? Call it a clinical tech, and limit scope of practice. A branch off of our role, instead of equal. The established surgical tech position has enough troubles being taken seriously already, yet deemed vital (ask any surgeon the value of a good tech). If Mr. Riggs meant it when he told me he aims to elevate the surgical tech role with this legislation, it would be more prudent to have a different title for this apprenticeship role. We already embrace teaching by precepting student techs frequently. If this emergency is actually designed with a specific niche for staffing concerns, it should not make people like myself, who carry an AAS in surgical technology, on the same level as an apprentice. My years at community college and student loan payments already fail to earn any additional wage. Now, it feels like my degree will be literally worthless, except in the skill I bring bedside, to my patient. This is no way to keep well trained people in this field. I have ideas equitable for all, please ask. Hospitals obviously need help learning how to keep staff around.

Thank you for your consideration,
Amy Turpin CST