



Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Kennemer and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I write today on behalf of Concorde Career College with regard to House Bill 4106 A, the surgical technologist apprenticeship bill. Concorde Career College is an important component of Oregon's professional health care workforce pipeline. Our Portland campus offers seven different degree or diploma programs, including Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant, Medical Office Administration, Polysomnographic (sleep) Technology, Practical Nursing, Respiratory Therapy and Surgical Technology.

Concorde continues to remain neutral on HB 4106 A. If registered apprenticeship programs for surgical technologists are created, our principal concern is that they must result in all surgical technologists in all areas of our state having equivalent education and being held to the same high standards for patient care. We believe that our input will therefore be critical to any rulemaking and development discussions, and we stand ready to be a key resource to OHA and BOLI if HB 4106 A becomes law.

However, given certain statements made thus far on the record for HB 4106 A, we find it important to provide the committee with basic information about our program. We want to respond, in particular, to statements that there is currently only one surgical technology program in Oregon that graduates "approximately 12" students per year, requires "additional courses unrelated to surgical technology," and only serves the Portland area.

Our Concorde Portland campus is one of three accredited surgical technologist associate degree programs in Oregon, with the other two being at Linn Benton Community College and at Mt. Hood Community College. Our accreditation authorizes us to serve a capacity of up to three cohorts per year with a maximum of 24 students per cohort. However, in order to serve our students effectively, we must limit our cohort sizing to align with clinical site availability. In the past three years, we have therefore educated two cohorts per year resulting in a total of 24 graduates annually. Our program is designed to prepare graduates with the basic knowledge and fundamental practical and professional skills needed for employment as an entry level generalist, combining academic studies, hands-on lab instruction, and clinical training in various surgical settings.

Our training is rigorous and necessary to adequately prepare students for the intensity of a career in the operating room. We require 1,655 contact hours and 63.5 semester credits over 60 weeks of full-time instruction. These requirements prepare students to be eligible to sit for the National Certifying Examination for Surgical Technologists as sponsored by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA). Our program meets Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation of Education Programs in Surgical Technology as established by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP) and as required by The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). To graduate, a student must receive a passing grade of 75% or higher in all courses and laboratory practical final exams.

Our placement and licensure rates for graduates well exceed benchmarks for our national accreditor, with 100% of our students in 2021 being placed and licensed. Our graduates serve patients throughout the state, with many of our clinical sites located outside the Portland metro area and over half of our graduates ultimately taking jobs outside the Portland metro area and in



locations across the region.

We are proud of our graduates and the professionalism they bring to their work. While we, again, remain neutral on HB 4106 A, we are dedicated to ensuring our students receive proper recognition in discussions regarding the state of the surgery technician workforce in Oregon. We feel strongly that good public policy deliberations must be based on accurate information, and we urge the committee to carefully consider this letter in light of the existing record on HB 4106 A. Please feel free to reach out with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen McGee".

Maureen McGee  
Lobbyist, Concorde Career College  
[Maureen.mcgee@tonkon.com](mailto:Maureen.mcgee@tonkon.com)  
971.610.1140