

Submitter: Tonya Richardson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3596

Hello Legislature,

I am a TS-C, I have been practicing for 15+ years and by no means was the education that I received from my non-accredited school not worthy of being able to practice. As a matter of fact the education and skills we learn in school are not even the top of the iceberg for the education and skills we learn on the job. The programs provided whether diploma or associates give surgical technologists a great foundation to build on. I have mastered such services as Robotics (all areas including thoracic, general, gynecology, bariatric, urology and orthopedics), Bariatric, General, gynecology, urology, Thoracic, vascular and ENT. I couldn't have done that without the foundation from my school and the certifying organization. Our certification is just as good as the one provided by NBSTSA our program was rigorous and required similar hours of competency both classroom and lab work as other institutions. There will be a loss of many jobs for surgical technologist in Oregon if they aren't going to accept our certification. There's no reason why a person practicing for many years should have to go back to school to do something they've already been doing. I think that it should be left up to the hospital organization as to whether they will accept a certain type of certification or not. There's going to be a shortage of surgical technologists if you pass the bill to not allow those with the NCCT certification to practice putting the public and hospitals at risk of more staff shortages. Thank you for you time and attention.