

Chairman Nosse, members of the Committee,

My name is Angie Hansen. I'm Clinical Coordinator at Mt. Hood Community College.

We oppose making changes to the surgical technologist law this session.

We oppose removing the requirement that surgical technologists graduate from an accredited program, which this legislation does even with the amendment.

We understand there has been some misinformation about the number of surgical technologists that graduate from accredited programs each year. My program alone graduates more people than the proponents are saying graduate statewide. Also, we are actively growing our programs and supporting Klamath Falls to establish new programs soon.

We believe this is much larger debate and we want to respect the Committee's time, so we are not going point by point today.

Today I want to say as surgical technologists, we know surgical technologists that are undereducated are ill-prepared to enter the OR. The OR has no training wheels. It is an intense, demanding, high-pressure, high-paced, high-stakes environment from day one.

Graduation from an accredited program and the provisions in the current law ensures that surgical technologists are ready for the demanding environment of the OR.

A high level of performance is needed for patient safety, surgical outcomes, their own safety, and the safety of their colleagues. Competent performers contribute to the entire team's morale, surgeon satisfaction, patient safety, better surgical outcomes for the patient, and staff retention.

Thank you for your time.

Angie Hansen  
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