

Chairman Nosse, members of the Committee,

My name is Manpreet Kaur.

I am Certified Surgical Technologist in Corvallis.

We oppose removing the requirement for accredited education from the current law, which this does even with the amendment.

The legislative record from last year reflects that multiple legislators voted in favor of the legislation only because of the high educational standards in the legislation.

Well-educated surgical technologists prevent patient harm and death related to instruments and implants. The surgical technologist prepares surgical implants like heart valves, artificial hips, knees, and spine implants. Patients have died, for example, when a surgical technologist has mixed the bone cement incorrectly for a knee replacement. We acknowledge it takes a team to make an error like this, it also takes a team to prevent one.

Well-educated surgical technologists also help with Joint Commission compliance. The Joint Commission reports that **36%** of accredited hospitals were noncompliant with its standards to reduce the risk of infection associated with medical equipment, devices, and supplies. Educated surgical technologists prevent infection and increase compliance by properly decontaminating instruments and other techniques.

If passed, this bill would open the door for approval of apprenticeship programs that do not require foundational knowledge through classroom education to be established *before apprentices enter the OR*.

In summary, HB 3596 removes from statute a requirement that was explicitly relied on by stakeholders and legislators to make policy decisions regarding surgical technology apprenticeship programs, and could put patients and apprentices at risk. This is a significant, substantive change and we strongly believe that this bill is not ready to move forward this session.

Thank you for your time.