



Samaritan
Health
Services

Please Support HB 3596

Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents of the mid-Willamette Valley, central Oregon Coast, and rural communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

We strongly support the passage of HB 3596, which will help address the critical shortage of Surgical Technologists being experienced by many hospitals within the state of Oregon.

Surgical Technologists are critical members of the Operating Room team and directly impact efficiency. When HB 4106 was passed in 2022, the objective was **to open more training avenues for this important role, and particularly for apprenticeships**. Passage of HB 3596 is a critical technical fix that will ensure that happens.

Samaritan Health Services has hired 15 Certified Surgical Techs in the past two years. Almost 50% of these were new graduates from our local community college surgical technology programs.

Our staffing needs in this area far exceed the graduates available:

- We currently have twelve Surgical Technology positions posted, and the average time for SHS to fill these positions is 182 days (6 months).
- SHS has some surgical technology positions posted since July 2020, with no applicants.

Samaritan Health Services currently operates several apprenticeship programs internally, including **MA, Pharmacy Tech, and Phlebotomy** apprenticeships and training programs for **CNA1&2**. We provide annual **Leadership Courses** to assist with training, and advancement of staff into leadership positions. Additionally we support the **Preceptor Development Program**, and next month are launching the **Charge Nurse Program**. Passage of HB 3596 will help implement an additional training pipeline for these professionals, and provide a workforce solution that is clearly and desperately needed.

The apprenticeship model is a common sense, and important *additional* training pathway, ensuring the same level of training in a format that better fits the busy lives of working adults who are hoping to reskill into a new career.

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