



Roy Vinyard
President and CEO

Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Healthcare Committee,

ASANTE is submitting this letter in opposition to HB2876.

As the largest non-seasonal employer in Jackson County, and operating three acute-care facilities, we serve a large and diverse population in a six-county area in Southern Oregon. ASANTE is ranked among the best hospitals and health systems nationally for patient care and experience.

It is our people who ultimately make that possible. As such, we place a great priority on finding, hiring, training, and retaining the best possible team members. Setting and adhering to high standards for positions such as a Surgical Technician has long been a trademark of ASANTE.

Such standards coupled with clinical practices help us provide excellent patient care. However, not having qualified candidates for specialized positions can create significant hiring and staffing challenges.

Our opposition to HB2876 is twofold. First, we believe that requiring certification of the Surgical Technician position would dramatically increase the difficulties and costs associated with locating and recruiting for this position by forcing an already small pool of applicants to meet much more stringent and costly qualifications.

Second, we do not feel there would be a substantial benefit to requiring mandatory certification of Surgical Technicians for our patients, or for ASANTE. Currently, we list certification as preferred, but not mandatory. Regardless, our Surgical Technicians are among the best trained and most professional in the industry – our record of surgical patient care and success speaks to that.

With only two accredited Surgery Technician programs in Oregon, both of which are located in the Portland area (a 4-5 hour car trip from Southern Oregon), the ability to send staff for additional training would be costly as well as time prohibitive.

While we are opposed to HB2876 as both unnecessary and potentially costly, ASANTE appreciates the efforts of this committee and would be pleased to discuss ideas for a measurable and positive impact on patient care that do not create additional cost burdens and operating challenges.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Vinyard".