

March 6, 2015

Dear Representative Greenlick and the House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgeon (gynecologic oncologist) at Sacred Heart in Springfield, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly practicing surgical technologists.

I am writing in support of the surgical techs in Oregon based largely on my extensive experience with surgical techs at Sacred Heart Riverbend. In this time of transition, both locally with administrative changes, but also nationally with our health care overhaul, I feel it is important to acknowledge and support the expertise of each member of the surgical team.

Surgical technologists act as the surgeon's "co-pilots" (to borrow once again from the comparison between surgery and the air-line industry), serving as a second set of eyes and hands in the operating room. The surgical technologist prepares and manages surgical equipment, instruments and supplies throughout the surgery; they manage the specimens (in my case cancer specimens, the precise cataloging of which can be essential to a patient's subsequent treatment and prognosis). They oversee the integrity of the OR, including the multitude of instruments used in even the most basic surgery. They are critical in preventing surgical site infections (with the attendant potential personal and economic costs), and in preventing surgical "never events" such as retained foreign objects.

Patients are at an obvious disadvantage during surgery, as they are frequently unconscious. Patients never meet or select the majority of their surgical teams, and often they don't even know who is on the team. It is therefore our job to construct the safest conditions on their behalf, and for that reason I am asking you to support HB 2876.

There are no current regulations in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists despite the obvious benefit to such expertise and education.

We recently have had quite a number of trainees coming through our rooms. While this is wonderful in that it indicates an administrative effort to train enough team members so that we can have more OR operational flexibility, it also offers an opportunity to appreciate more fully the expertise we have and to explore how we can exploit that to enhance patient safety and quality of care.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to have well trained and highly educated surgical techs in the room at my side as we together provide complex surgical care to sick patients. Their ability to translate the "brief/debrief" from the prior case into an action plan for the next case is invaluable. They need to know the surgery itself, of course the instruments,

but also the nuances of the patient's specific condition... Shared by the surgeon who sees the tech as an integral member of the team.

They need to be educated to the hospital, the OR, and to the specific specialty. A good tech will be sufficiently confident to ask why something is different if it is, and to absorb that information in their ongoing educational efforts... They may even be able to suggest specific instrumentation or options if one isn't working. All of this circles back around to excellent patient care.

To achieve patient safety metrics, we must view surgery as a team sport, and each member of the team must come to the "table" highly trained. Patients don't want their surgery to be seen as a "practice run" or a "scrimmage;" they want the team that is educated, will hand the correct instruments at the correct time, will have the correct equipment in reach, and will be able to respond efficiently and quickly to the patient and surgeon's needs.

Please help by supporting HB 2876.

Thank you for your attention.

Audrey P. Garrett, MD, MPH
Willamette Valley Cancer Institute
Springfield, OR, 97477

March 7 2014

OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification



Dear House Committee on Health Care:

My name is Aleesha Roberts, I am surgical technologist I work at Salem Health Hospital. I am writing to you to express my support for House Bill 2876.

At Salem Health Hospital, we are required to have our certification and because of that I know we provide the best care for our patients. This

legislation protects surgical patients by creating a minimum education & certification requirement for newly practicing surgical technologist. As a

Surgical technologist we are an important part of the OR team, we should all be held to higher standards especially since our patients are unconscious and can not speak for themselves.

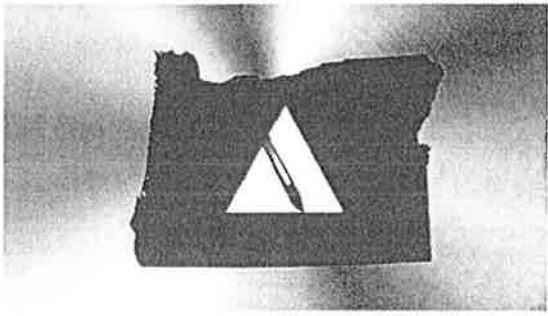
A Surgical technologist motto is "Aeger Primo," which means "patient first." This is very important to remember when you are reading House bill 2876.

Every surgical patients deserves the best care & with the passing of this bill ~~will~~ it will

ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists & better patient care. please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

Aleesha Roberts, CST
Salem Health Hospital
890 Oaks St SE Salem OR 97301



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

03/04/2015

House Committee on Health Care

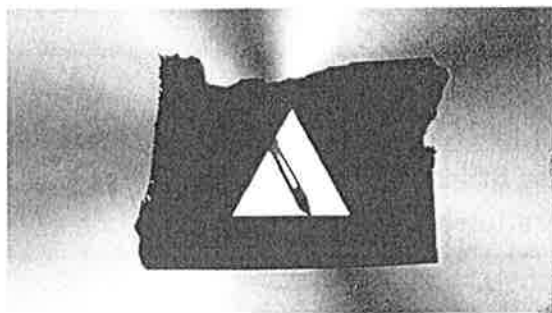
I write this letter to show my support for
House Bill 2876.

My name is Alina Olinik, I have been working as
a surgical technologist for four years in Legacy Hospital.
I am Certified Surgical Technologist which graduated
from a fully Accredited Program (of two years).

I would like to be recognized, just as a nurse does.

Surgical Technologist play a critical part in a
Surgical procedure. We are assisting the surgeon,
we provide all the instrumentation, we keep a
sterile field, "our hand are in the wound with
the surgeon hands". We help the surgeons, and
it makes me sad that people from "outside"

(with not completing an Accredited 2 year program) and
not being Certified), can be trained "on the job", and
just like me - play the role of Surgical Technologist.
We have to provide "THE BEST" care for our patient,
which mean "all the surgical team - working on the
patient" to have Certified. My e-mail: @ " a.olinik@yahoo.com



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

March 7, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

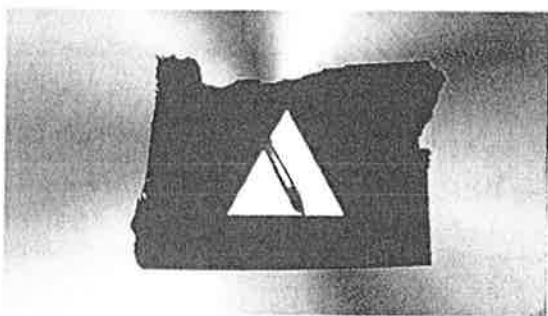
As a surgical technologist, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. I work at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon where we provide the best care for our patients. As a surgical technologist I have a critical role in preventing surgical site infections and preventing surgical never events such as retained foreign objects.

The House Bill 2876 legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologist. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

Teresa Vega Garduño, CST
OHSU; Doernbecher Children's Hospital
700 SW Campus Drive
Portland, Oregon 97239



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

To whom it may concern,

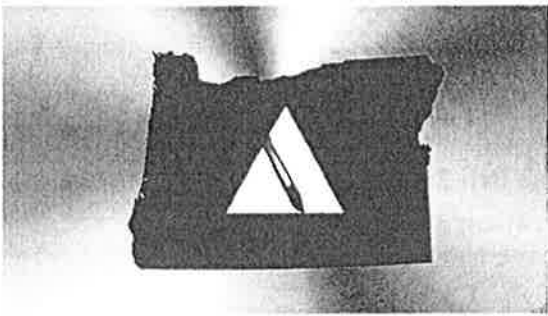
I would like to advocate for the house bill 2876 which requires all surgical Technologists in the state of Oregon to be certified.

As a surgical Technologist, who is certified, I truly believe that all surgical Techs should/and need to be certified to better protect the safety of the lives that we care for every day.

Put yourself on the operating table ... wouldn't you like the peace of mind knowing that your team is educated? and certified?

Think.

~Tressa Sinn CST



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

March 7, 2015

To Whom It may concern,

I fully support the house bill 2876. This bill will protect patients by making sure all surgical technologists are certified. Every other person working in the operating room is licensed. Surgical Technologists are somehow being over looked when they are just as involved with the patient as anyone else in the OR.

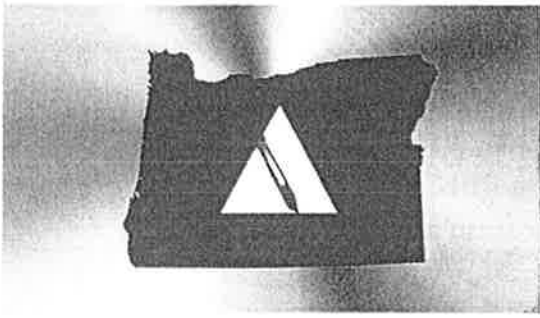
As a student there is no way I think that anyone could be trained on the job and get enough information in order to perform the tasks correctly and safely. The program I am in is rigorous and is needed in order to get the best training possible. I know as a patient I would never want some one on my operating team that isnt certified.

Of course this bill also takes into consideration people in rural areas that is why there is a grandfather clause. Along with anyone trained in the military. So please, I ask for your support in House Bill 2876.

Thank You!

LeeAnn Lauritzen
MHCC Surgical Technologist Student

234 Se Greenway D
Gresham, OR 97080



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

7 March 2015

to whom it may concern-

I am writing to you to ask for support on passing HB 2876.

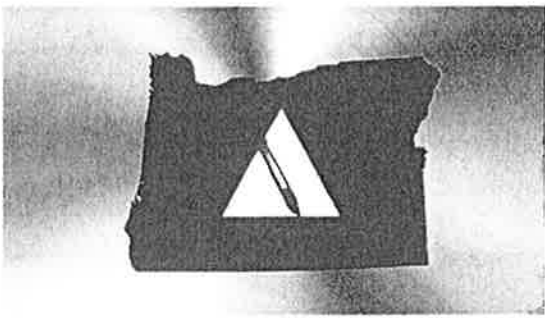
I have been working as a surgical technologist for over 25 years I have seen many things happen in the operating room - good + bad.

I feel it is very important for all surgical technologist in the State of Oregon to be certified. Currently all other members of the surgical team have licenses, certification or registration except for the scrub tech (surgical technologist). This means that a scrub tech trained in a clinic doing office procedures may be assisting the surgeon it only makes sense to insure all members of the surgical team meet a minimum level of education to work in an operating room.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2876. Thank you.

Verissa S. Ellis CST/CBFA

vellis0811@hotmail.com



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

My name is Randy

Kershner, I am a Certified surgical
Technologist. I work in Medford OR
at a outpatient surgery center for
the past Eighteen years. I feel this
bill is very important. We need to
be recognized in our Profession, for
the safety of our Patients.

Thank-you - for your time and
Consideration.

Randy Kershner

3464 Pappaywood Dr Medford OR,
97504

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As an anesthesiologist, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

Surgical technologists act as the surgeon's co-pilots, serving as a second set of eyes and hands in the operating room. The surgical technologist prepares and manages surgical equipment, instruments and supplies throughout the surgery; manages specimens such as cancer, skin grafts, and organs; and oversees the sterile integrity of the operating room, including the hundreds of instruments that are used in even the most basic surgery. Surgical technologists are critical in preventing surgical site infections and preventing surgical never events such as retained foreign objects.

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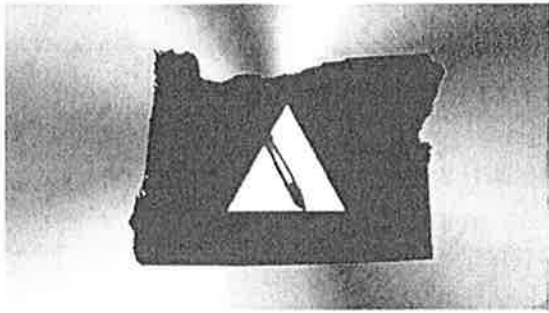
No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,



DODDS MD



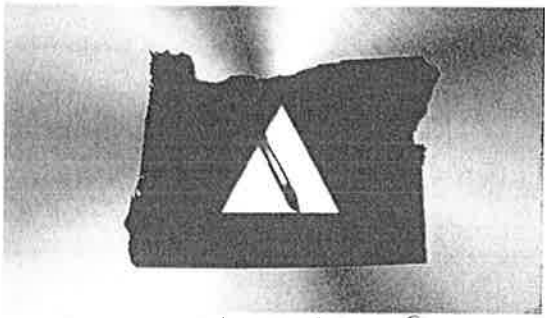
OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

My name is Natalya Buliga. I work at Salem hospital and before that worked at Portland Adventist medical center. I support the House Bill 2876 because I have seen how important it is to have the education before scrubbing in to a surgery. Although getting certified doesn't help a scrub tech in relation to anticipating the surgeon's needs and understanding the procedure, it does help be aware of sterility and calling out contaminations. From my experience, I noticed that scrub techs that are not certified or been through Surgical Technology program tend to be more ~~lenient~~ lenient to contaminations and tend to let it go or act like it didn't happen. If I was getting surgery, I would want everyone involved in my care to be certified and be very aware of breakage in sterility.

Sincerely,

Natalya Buliga, CST



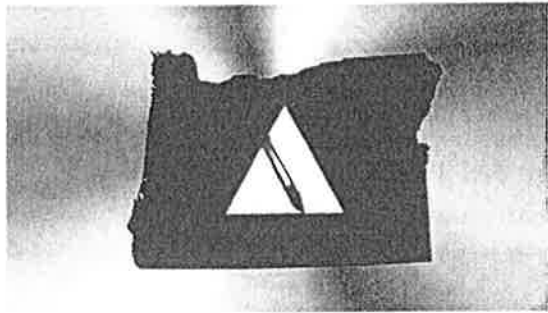
OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

House Health Committee,

My name is Christi Buske-Maves, I am a Surgical Technology student about to graduate from an accredited program. In the short time I have been assigned to particular hospitals for my clinical experience, I have already, on more than one occasion, demonstrated better practice in regards to labeling medications, than Techs who have been practicing for a long time. I attribute this to the strict regimen created by my program. There is no substitute for a board certified Surgical Technologist. I AM in FAVOR of ^{House} Bill 2876!

Christi Buske-Maves



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

From: Marilyn M Wilber, CST
28305 Gowdyville Rd
Lavine OR 97451

Dear Representatives:

I'd like to make you aware of HB2876 that is representing my profession. I have been in the OR room environment for ten years, and a CST for over 10 years. I believe there is an imperative need for this bill to pass. We protect our family and friends while they are in the Operating Room. As a single mom of 3 kids, the income and positive role-modeling I have earned and learned gives my kids a foundation of work ethics that will send them out into the world more prepared to deal with life's realities.

Please take the time to read our Bill. I appreciate your time as we are all busy people.

Sincerely,

Marilyn M Wilber, CST
Instrument Coordinator
Day Surgery at Riverbend
3355 Riverbend Dr
Springfield OR 97477



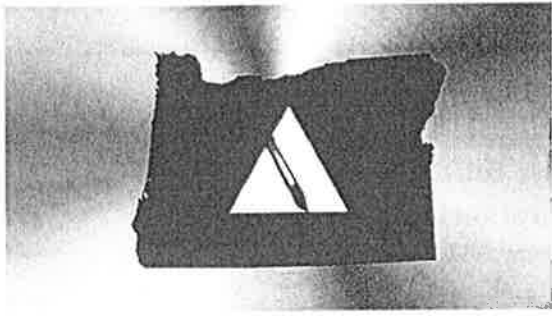
OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

TO Whom it may concern,

I would like you to consider passing Bill 2876. Having a certified surgical tech in the operating room that has gone through an accredited surgical tech program is in the best interest of all patients going in for surgery. It decreases operation time, decreases errors made, & makes the surgeon move at ease knowing a properly trained tech is assisting. If you or a family member needed surgery, would you want someone that was trained & passed a test, or someone that was trained off the street? Please consider passing this bill.

Jennifer Jeanne CST.



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

March 2015

Dear House Representatives,

I have had the opportunity to meet many of you. I appreciate the welcome into the legislative process that I have gotten from you and your offices. It is encouraging that when citizens see an issue that needs to be addressed, that our government hears us, and gives due consideration. Which brings me to our issue. I have put much time and effort into HB2876 because I believe in it. Working in surgeries I have the opportunity to see quality patient care. On the flip side I have seen surgical care that is scary. Having a surgical team member without a minimum level of required training leads to lots of scary scenarios. Studies show that not requiring minimum training for surgical technologists compromises patient outcomes and leads to an increase in healthcare costs. The top reason for hospital re-admission is from surgical-site infections. In that reality it is time to keep Oregon in step with the national trend of requiring standards of training for surgical technologists.

Thank you,

Tara Kruse CST

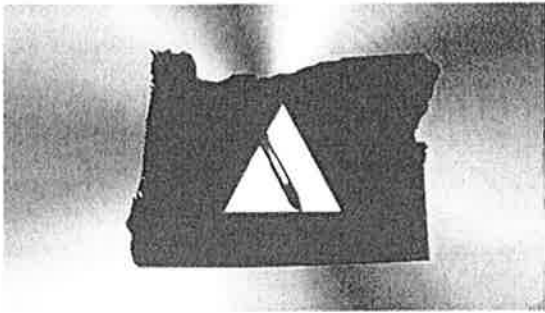


OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

House Health Committee :

I am a certified Surgical Technologist.
I worked hard to become certified and will be
paying for many years on school loans. Why
you may ask? Because I know the importance
in education and what a difference it
makes in the OR being educated.
If you had surgery would you choose me
or the guy that did not go to school and
is not certified in this field? For me and
other CST's, Patient First. We strive for
excellence each and every case.
Thank you for acknowledging this bill.
Sara Davis, CST
Salem, OR



OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

SUPPORT House Bill 2876
Surgical Technologist Education and Certification

To whom it may concern,

I am a Surgical Technology student at Mt. Hood Community College and I want to show my support for the House Bill 2876. This bill states that surgical technologists need to either be certified or have a minimum level education in the field in order to continue working. It also provides a grandfathered provision and allows scrub techs from the Military to practice in the field.

Surgical technologists play a significant role in surgeries and they have multiple responsibilities. Their knowledge and skills are important when it comes to infection control, retained surgical items, and patient safety. It is not fair to the patient if someone from the surgical team does not have enough knowledge of the situation or procedure and be in charge of the patient's safety at the same time. That is why the H.B. 2876 wants to prevent uneducated personnel from working in surgery and promotes minimum level education for surgical technologists. I ask that you support this bill and make a difference in many people's lives by putting them in safe hands. Thank you for your time.

Cincerely, Oksana Kovalova

February 26, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical technologist, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

Surgical technologists act as the surgeon's co-pilots, serving as a second set of eyes and hands in the operating room. The surgical technologist prepares and manages surgical equipment, instruments and supplies throughout the surgery; manages specimens such as cancer, skin grafts, and organs; and oversees the sterile integrity of the operating room, including the hundreds of instruments that are used in even the most basic surgery. Surgical technologists are critical in preventing surgical site infections and preventing surgical never events such as retained foreign objects.

Patients are at an obvious disadvantage during surgery - they are frequently unconscious. Patients never select and most often do not know who is on the surgical team.

No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hean CST
Pres Oregon Association of Surgical Technologists

Riverbend Hospital
3333 Riverbend Dr
Springfield, Or

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

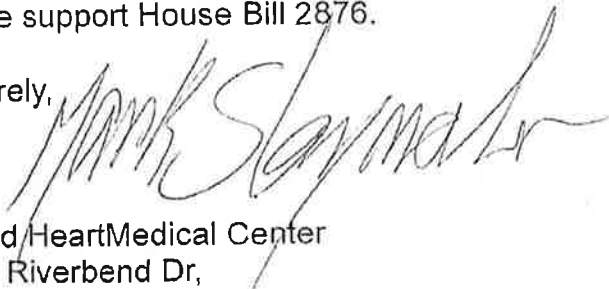
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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Slaymaker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned over the typed name and address below.

Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

Karl Clinit
RN, IBRN, CNOR
Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

As AORN STANDARDS AND ANA
STANDARDS SPEAK TO - ALL STAFFING
MEMBERS SHOULD BE GRADUATES OF
ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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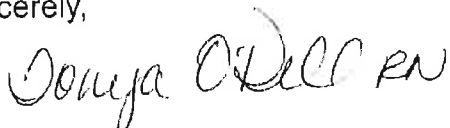
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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donja O'Neil RN". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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Sincerely,



Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

February 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you about House Bill 2876 during the 2015 legislative session. This piece of legislation is protecting patients by requiring a minimum level of education for surgical technologists. This bill includes considerations for rural facilities, a grandfather provision to allow those with experience in the field to continue, and there is recognition for military training.

This bill has no fiscal implications for the state of Oregon, however it protects citizens by ensuring a minimum level of training takes place. Studies show this reduces surgical complications such as infections, retained foreign objects and wrong site surgeries. Surgical technologists are responsible for setting up and protecting the sterile field for surgery. They also handle and manage medications to be used in surgery, keep track of specimens such as lymph nodes being tested for cancer taken during surgery that will lead to a patient's further courses of treatment, and help during the surgery itself. Patients are usually unconscious during surgery, and the vast majority are unaware that a part of their surgical team has no minimum educational requirements. Currently there is legislation being passed across the nation at the state level to address that, and I support Oregon passing HB 2876 to do so as well.

As a surgical technologist I am committed to patient safety. I qualify under HB 2876 and feel strongly that any person serving as a surgical technologist should adhere to these minimum educational requirements.

Should I ever be a surgical patient I would absolutely want a surgical technologist who is trained to the standards set forth in HB 2876. I support HB 2876, and ask that you do so as well.

Sincerely,



Kristin Fedorow CST

McKenzie Willamette Med. Center

February 2015

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Sincerely,

Nubia C. Hastings-Perry CST

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As an operating room nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

Surgical technologists act as the surgeon's co-pilots, serving as a second set of eyes and hands in the operating room. The surgical technologist prepares and manages surgical equipment, instruments and supplies throughout the surgery; manages specimens such as cancer, skin grafts, and organs; and oversees the sterile integrity of the operating room, including the hundreds of instruments that are used in even the most basic surgery. Surgical technologists are critical in preventing surgical site infections and preventing surgical never events such as retained foreign objects.

Patients are at an obvious disadvantage during surgery - they are frequently unconscious. Patients never select and most often do not know who is on the surgical team.

No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

Janet Palo RN

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

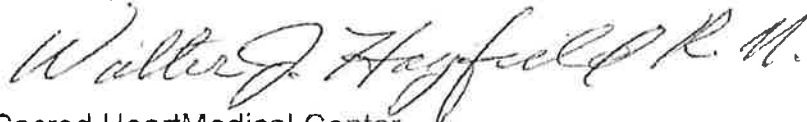
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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter J. Hayfield R.N.".

Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

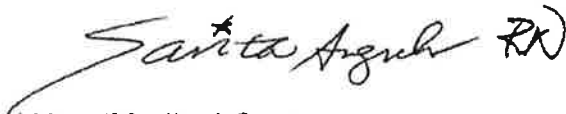
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No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Santa Aguirre RN". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a healthcare professional, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guadalupe Vazquez, D.O.". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

March 4, 2015
Representative Mitch Greenlick
900 Court Street, NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Greenlick:

As a Registered Nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

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No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Ballou RN CNOR".

Diane Ballou, RN
Sacred Heart Medical Center at Riverbend
3333 Riverbend Dr.
Springfield, OR 97477

February 2015

To Whom It May Concern,


I am writing to you about House Bill 2876 during the 2015 legislative session. This piece of legislation is protecting patients by requiring a minimum level of education for surgical technologists. This bill includes considerations for rural facilities, a grandfather provision to allow those with experience in the field to continue, and there is recognition for military training.

This bill has no fiscal implications for the state of Oregon, however it protects citizens by ensuring a minimum level of training takes place. Studies show this reduces surgical complications such as infections, retained foreign objects and wrong site surgeries. Surgical technologists are responsible for setting up and protecting the sterile field for surgery. They also handle and manage medications to be used in surgery, keep track of specimens such as lymph nodes being tested for cancer taken during surgery that will lead to a patient's further courses of treatment, and help during the surgery itself. Patients are usually unconscious during surgery, and the vast majority are unaware that a part of their surgical team has no minimum educational requirements. Currently there is legislation being passed across the nation at the state level to address that, and I support Oregon passing HB 2876 to do so as well.

As a physician assistant I work alongside surgical technologists in surgeries. I appreciate that they have a role in the operating room that warrants a minimum level of educational requirements.

Should I ever be a surgical patient I would absolutely want a surgical technologist who is trained to the standards set forth in HB 2876. I support HB 2876, and ask that you do so as well.

Sincerely,

B. Daniel Curcliffe PA-C


3/3/15

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to you about House Bill 2876 during the 2015 legislative session. This piece of legislation is protecting patients by requiring a minimum level of education for surgical technologists. This bill includes rural areas, there is also a grandfather provision to allow those with experience in the field to continue, as well as recognition for military training.

As a surgical technology student I can assure you that the education I am receiving cover a breadth and depth of surgical information that is essential for me to be prepared to serve as a surgical technologist. With all the important information I am receiving in the classroom, as well as my clinical experience, I cannot imagine the feeling comfortable as a surgical patient with a surgical technologist lacking this training.

I support HB 2876 and I ask that you do as well.

Sincerely,

Rachel Harrison

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you to ask that you support House Bill 2876 during the 2015 legislative session. This bill protects the public by providing for a minimum level of education for surgical technologists. All other health care providers on the surgical team are credentialed and required to document a minimum level of education. This bill would require accountability from all members of the health care team providing surgical care for patients.

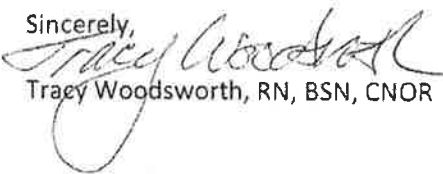
The bill has no fiscal implications for the state of Oregon. However, it protects citizens by ensuring that the necessary education, skills/competencies, and continuing education are met.

Currently similar legislation is being passed across the nation at the state level. I ask your support in passing HB 2876 to provide the same level of care for patients in Oregon.

As a perioperative nurse and educator for over twenty years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with surgical technologists in the operating room. As an educator, I am familiar with the surgical technology curriculum required for CAAHEP accreditation. It is a rigorous curriculum that prepares surgical technologists to perform their role in the operating room caring for patients. The curriculum includes anatomy and physiology; microbiology; surgical pharmacology and anesthesia; surgical instrumentation, equipment and technologies; prevention of surgical site infection; care of surgical specimens; and surgical procedures across all specialties, including pediatrics, cardiac surgery, and orthopedic and neurosurgery. The public is unaware that that there are no minimum educational requirements required for the surgical technologists who are part of the surgical team providing their care during surgery.

As a patient advocate, and as a constituent, I urge you to support HB 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Woodworth". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tracy Woodworth, RN, BSN, CNOR

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As an operating room nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

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No current regulations are in place that ensure minimum competency of surgical technologists. The Joint Commission, Medicare and state law do not have specific standards in place for surgical technologist education or certification.

Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. M.", is written in black ink.

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical technologist, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Misty G. Gorman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical nurse, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

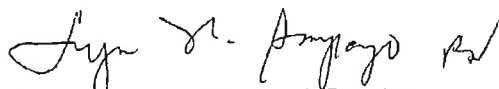
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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,



Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heidi J. Spangler".

Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

February 24, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,



Sacred Heart Medical Center
3333 Riverbend Dr,
Springfield, Or, 97477

Lynn Hecker, R.N.

February 26, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a surgical technologist, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. J. Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Riverbend Hospital
3333 Riverbend Dr
Springfield, Or

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

As a healthcare professional, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2876. This legislation protects surgical patients by creating minimum education and certification requirements for newly-practicing surgical technologists. In addition to a grandfathering provision, graduates of US military programs are exempt. Rural and medically underserved health care facilities may train their own surgical technologists if the facility is unable to find an educated and certified, military-trained or grandfathered surgical technologist.

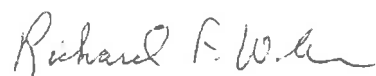
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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard F. Wilk".

March 3, 2015

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear House Committee on Health Care:

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Please support House Bill 2876.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rigaberto Zavala".