

**Testimony of Doug Riggs**  
**Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association**  
**HB4089 / Surgical Technologist Apprenticeship Program**

Chair Salinas/Vice Chairs Nosse and Hayden, Members of the Committee:

HB4089, a health care workforce bill, which we have worked on with BOLI and OHA, to develop. This is a broadly supported and bi-partisan bill that would positively impact many areas of the state.

Its sponsors include:

**Chief Sponsors:**

[Representative Stark, Lively, Nosse, Smith DB,](#)  
[Senator Monnes Anderson](#)

**Regular Sponsors:**

[Representative Barker, Barreto, Fahey, Holvey, Marsh,](#)  
[Prusak, Schouten, Wilde, Senator Beyer, Frederick,](#)  
[Golden, Prozanski, Roblan,](#)

The Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center and others in the health-care workplace have been having challenges finding enough qualified "surgical techs" to fill key positions. Hospitals, especially in rural areas, are also running into this challenge.

Oregon statute currently limits aspiring surgical tech workers to only two certification bodies, and those programs are not meeting the need.

The solution will require a small legislative change to existing statute, which will allow a third path, one which will be much more focused on on-site training.

We believe that the bill is non-controversial, and simply fixes a loophole that unintentionally prohibited work-based apprenticeship programs for surgical technologists. It does not alter the existing pathways, but simply adds another option.

We have been discussing this issue with hospitals, work-source agencies, local health organizations and state agencies for several months. BOLI and OHA have identified the statutory change that they believe is necessary, and that is what this bill would accomplish.

This is a simple, but common-sense solution to a very real workforce crisis facing health care providers.

We urge passage of HB4089.

***Doug Riggs, OASCA, 503-702-5120***