

Please Support HB 4089: Surgical Technicians

Please join the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) and hospitals across the state in supporting HB 4089, which will expand Oregon’s apprenticeship programs to include surgical technicians and will address some of the recruiting and retention challenges facing hospitals.

There is a critical shortage of surgical technicians across the state, and our current training and certification options are not enough to fill the pipeline with qualified people. In a January 2020 survey distributed by the Oregon Ambulatory and Surgical Care Association (OASCA) and Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS), hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers noted that it is very difficult to fill openings for surgical technologist and have anywhere between 1 and 20 unfilled positions currently.

HB 4089 will create an apprenticeship option to train community members looking to enter the health care profession and care for their neighbors in our hospitals and outpatient surgery centers around the state. Apprentices in a surgical technician program will learn on the job, be eligible for certification while earning a paycheck, which will make the occupation an option for individuals who may otherwise not be able to afford the college tuition required now. This option will be particularly impactful in rural Oregon.

Apprenticeship programs are valued for their focus on high quality on-the-job training and related instructional learning. Graduates in other occupations leave their programs ready to work, with hands-on experience and a certification that shows they were educated and trained to the same high standard.

Please join hospitals across the state in supporting HB 4089.

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