



Help Create New Health-Care Career Pathways for Oregonians
Support the Surgical - Tech Workforce Opportunity Act of 2020

Issue: Health care facilities performing surgeries (hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers) are facing a critical shortage of “surgical techs.” These well-paid entry level medical professionals are a key component of patient care and quality measures in surgery rooms around the state. Yet, the limited number of accredited programs in Oregon are not producing nearly enough “surg techs” to meet the need, especially in rural Oregon.

Problem: Oregon statute specifically limits accreditation to only two organizations - - actually spelled out in the law. Other accrediting organizations, which might partner with organizations like ASCs, Hospitals, and BOLI to create additional pathways for aspiring Oregonians to become certified as surgical techs are locked out by this arbitrary limitation.

Solution: The *Oregon Health Authority (OHA)* and the *Bureau of Labor & Industries (BOLI)* have both determined that a simple statutory fix could resolve the issue, and allow a new, ***work-based apprenticeship program*** using Oregon’s recognized apprenticeship model to be created to address this health workforce crisis. The proposal is a simple, but effective fix to a problem that has been developing over the last few years and continue to improve outcomes/safety for surgery patients in Oregon.

Supporters: Representatives Stark, Nosse, Lively, Marsh, Wilde, Keny-Guyer, Prusak, Senator Monnes Anderson, Senator Golden, BOLI Commissioner Val Hoyle, Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and aspiring surgical techs around the state.

Contact: Doug Riggs, Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, 503-702-5120, doug@ngrc.com, Chris Skagen, Executive Director, OASCA, cskagen@ascoregon.org

