



**OREGON
ACADEMY OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY**
Eye Physicians & Surgeons

**TO: Chair Monnes Anderson
Vice Chair Linthicum
House Health Committee Members**

FR: Jennifer Lyons, MD
President
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology

Sabrina Riggs
Lobbyist
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
Sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com

RE: Support HB 4089

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) is a professional association of eye physicians and surgeons who specialize in the medical and surgical treatment of eye diseases and other conditions, and also provide vision care services. The Academy's purpose is to promote and improve the practice of medicine and surgery in relation to the eye. With over 170 active members, the Academy includes nearly 80% of the practicing ophthalmologists in Oregon.

The OAO is writing today in strong support of HB 4089. All over the state, particularly in rural areas, our members have reported difficulty finding and hiring enough certified surgical technicians (CSTs). We believe that HB 4089 provides a pathway to safely train more CSTs, which will increase access.

CST staff members are critical to patient safety in the OR and surgeon efficiency, and the apprenticeship method outlined in HB 4089 is similar to the successful on-the-job training our members are already doing with Ophthalmic Technicians. This kind of hands on training allows for a close working relationship with the physician and other medical staff, which ultimately leads to better patient care.

Respectfully, the OAO urges your support of HB 4089.