

House Health Care Committee Testimony

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The CST, Certified Surgical Technologist is the non licensed professional at the surgical table. The concept we advocated for in our bill that passed in 2015 was standardized education for this vital member of the surgical team. The Surgeon, Anesthesiologist, Nurse Anesthetist, Registered Nurse are all licensed. With the passage of the Surgical Technologist bill in 2015, the CST is now certified through the NBSTSA, National Board of Surgical Technologist and Surgical Assistants. The NBSTSA is affiliated with the institute of credentialing excellence, sponsored by the American Board of Surgeons and CAAHEP accredited. In order to take the certification exam through the NBSTSA, you would have graduated from a CAAHEP educational program. Certification of the Surgical Technologist through the NBSTSA meets the national standard for knowledge that underlies surgical technology practice. Therefore promoting quality patient care with entry level education. If we go back to on the job training, then we will be going back to lesser trained individuals, with no over-site as to what they will learn and the standards will go down due to this. I think our patients deserve much better than that, everyone working in the operating room should be qualified and have the appropriate certification and or license for said job. There is no need to fill our operating rooms with lesser trained individuals. It is now brought before you our Legislators of the State of Oregon to make sure our general public are protected by the minimum requirements set forth by this profession.

Surgical technologists have a system of educational standards, developed over 30 years ago. We feel that merely training someone for a few short weeks or months poses a threat to the patient, and that the only individuals qualified to serve in the scrub role are properly trained Surgical Technologists. Those Technologists should be graduates of a CAAHEP accredited school of Surgical Technology. In Oregon we have three Surgical Technology programs accredited through CAAHEP. Mount Hood Community College, Linn Benton Community College and Concorde Career College.

Certification (CST) as a surgical technologist provides evidence to employers, other health care professionals, and the public that the certified individual has met the national standard for the knowledge that underlies surgical technologist practice. Certified (CST) individuals demonstrate mastery of a broad range of knowledge of surgical procedures, aseptic technique, and patient care. Our goal is to provide safe, quality care to surgical patients and to impose the High Standards already agreed upon by our profession to protect the public.

I want to Thank-you for your time today and for listening. I have been in the field of Surgical Technology for 45 years, 33 of those years in the State of Oregon. I have Pride and Passion for what we do and feel that we need to have our patients best interest at heart. We are doing this for the right reasons, Quality Patient Care of the patients in the State of Oregon. Not for more recognition, or for more pay, safety of our patients should be on everyone's agenda and requiring present regulation in the 2015 bill, will help safeguard this for everyone.