



**TO: Rep. Rachel Prusak, Chair
Rep. Salinas and Rep. Hayden, Vice Chair
Members of the House Health Committee**

**FR: Sabrina Riggs
On behalf of Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology**

RE: Support for HB 2464-2

March 16, 2021

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 provide vision care services. OAO's purpose is to promote and improve the practice of medicine and surgery in relation to the eye in Oregon.

We write today in strong support of HB 2464-2. 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 2464 with the -2 amendment provides a pathway to safely train more CSTs, which will increase access. We are thankful to Representative Stark and other Sponsors for bringing this bill forward and for working with us on the -2 amendment which will ensure that ophthalmic-specific surgical tech programs are also included.

CST staff members are critical to patient safety in the operating room and to surgeon efficiency. The apprenticeship method outlined in HB 2464 with the -2 is similar to the successful on-the-job training our members are already doing with Ophthalmic Technicians. This 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 2464 -2.