

Pass the Surgical Tech Apprenticeship Emergency Workforce Act - - HB4106: (Schouten/Moore Green/Patterson)

A Proven Solution to the Huge and Growing Shortage of Certified Surgical Technologists in Oregon Health Care Facilities

The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the shortage of qualified Surgical Technologists in Oregon and across the nation. Oregon ASCs and hospitals are struggling to fill positions and retain staff, even at salaries starting at \$25 - \$27 an hour or more. Some facilities have over a dozen openings, and the shortages are forcing facilities to delay care or assign the Surg Tech tasks to skilled nurses, taking them away from their important duties.

Bi-Partisan legislation to be introduced for 2022 is supported by certified Surgical Technologists, Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) and hospitals across the state and will rapidly expand the staffing pipeline by qualifying successful apprentices, who earn wages as they acquire the necessary education and experience in direct patient care, to participate in existing certification exams.

The program will be under the **BOLI Apprenticeship model and BOLI oversight**, and will utilize the existing national NCCT accreditation organization, which has decades of experience, and **meets all of the national Institute for Credentialling Excellence standards**. The key difference is that for the first time in Oregon, this will now allow for **work-based skills development**, similar to many other proven models in the skilled Oregon trades models. And it maintains the highest safety and oversight standards.

	High School or GED Pre-requisite?	Graduate Surgical Tech Program by Degree or Certificate?	Complete Surgical Tech Competency Testing?	Military Experience Option?	Continuing Education?
CAAHEP	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
NBSTA	Yes	Yes - CAAHEP or ABHES only	Yes	Yes	Yes
NCCT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The legislation does not restrict the current accreditation bodies or programs for surgical technologists; It simply **provides an additional pathway** for students to gain education and hands on skills to help fill the huge and increasing gap in surgical technologist positions.



- ✓ Today, nurses are having to step in and take over these responsibilities, and that's taking nurses away from what they do best.
- ✓ This program will help with the nursing shortage
- ✓ These are high paying jobs, \$25-27 an hour to start, with opportunities for advancement.
- ✓ The apprenticeship model is good for BIPOC communities, rural residents, single parents, and young people, who will now be able to pursue this field without moving hundreds of miles away and paying for housing and extra living expenses for 2 years.

These organizations have endorsed the bill in 2022!

CO-SPONSOR THIS BILL FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS TODAY



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