



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

**TO: Chair Holvey
Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor**

FR: Sabrina Riggs
Lobbyist, Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
Sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com

RE: Support HB 4106

February 5, 2022

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 4106.

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 4106 provides a pathway to safely train more CSTs, which will increase access. We are thankful to Representative Schouten and other bipartisan, bicameral sponsors for bringing this bill forward and for including the language in Section 1 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 4106 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 4106.