



**Before the  
Oregon Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue**

**February 14, 2022**

**Statement on Behalf of American Medical Technologists and the  
Oregon State Society of American Medical Technologists  
on Senate Bill 1524**

Chairman Beyer, Vice Chair Boquist, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

This statement of conditional support for Senate Bill 1524 is submitted on behalf of American Medical Technologists (AMT) and the Oregon State Society of AMT. AMT is a national certification organization and professional society for clinical laboratory personnel and related allied health professionals headquartered in Rosemont, Illinois, with over 86,000 active member-certificants nationally. The Oregon State Society of AMT consists of all AMT members who reside or work in Oregon, currently totaling about 775.

Senate Bill 1524 would, among other things, extend the availability of state income tax credits for rural healthcare workers to individuals “**certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology as a medical laboratory scientist or as a medical laboratory technician.**” [§ 2, amending ORS § 315.616.] AMT and its Oregon State Society support the expansion of the tax credit to rural laboratory personnel; however, we strongly object to limiting the availability of the tax credits to those clinical laboratory personnel who are certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). While ASCP may be the largest certifier of laboratory personnel, AMT also has been providing high-quality certification for Medical Technologists (MTs) and Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLTs) since its founding in 1939. (MT is the equivalent of ASCP’s Medical Laboratory Scientist, or MLS.) AMT is fully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and AMT’s certification examinations are widely recognized by employers, by states that require laboratory personnel to be licensed or certified, and by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), the leading independent accrediting agency for clinical laboratory education programs.

Currently there are approximately 125 active AMT-certified MTs and MLTs who reside and/or work in Oregon. Many of the AMT-certified MTs and MLTs in Oregon work in rural settings, have labored tirelessly to provide critical testing services during the ongoing pandemic, and deserve the benefit of the tax credit every bit as much as do their ASCP-certified colleagues.

AMT and its Oregon State Society accordingly urge the committee to amend SB 1524 to include laboratory professionals certified by AMT. We suggest that Section 2 of the bill be amended in relevant part as follows:

**SECTION 2.** ORS 315.616 is amended to read:

315.616. A resident or nonresident individual who is certified as eligible under ORS 442.561, 442.562, 442.563 or 442.564, and is licensed as a physician under ORS chapter 677, licensed as a physician assistant under ORS chapter 677, licensed as a nurse practitioner under ORS chapter 678, licensed as a certified registered nurse anesthetist under ORS chapter 678, licensed as a dentist under ORS chapter 679 ~~or~~, licensed as an optometrist under ORS 683.010 to 683.340 or certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology or the American Medical Technologists as a medical laboratory scientist or medical technologist or as a medical laboratory technician is entitled to the tax credit described in ORS 315.613 even if not a member of the hospital medical staff if the Office of Rural Health certifies that the individual:

\* \* \* \*

(2)(c) If certified as a medical laboratory scientist or medical technologist or as a medical laboratory technician, is employed by a hospital that is at least 50 miles from a major population center in a qualified metropolitan statistical area; or

AMT and its Oregon State Society appreciate the Committee's favorable consideration of these proposed amendments to SB 1524 as introduced. With these revisions, we are pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for the legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

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