

Submitter: Janna Marshall
On Behalf Of: Oregon Health Sciences University
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

As a full time Certified Surgical Technologist(CST) at OHSU, I adamantly oppose House Bill 4106. Current staff shortage in the OR should not be compromised by a lesser standard of training when related to direct patient care. My role as a CST came with highly specialized individual training in an accredited 2 year program at MHCC. The demands of the program were rigorous and began prior to acceptance with competency of the body's anatomy and functional physiology. Further training in microbiology led to a fundamental understanding of harmful micro organisms that are a pervasive danger of costly (HAI) Hospital Acquired Infections. As a CST my training in aseptic technique is an imperative line of defense that was meticulously ingrained in me, and practiced in a simulated OR setting a full year before I set foot in a hospital. Once there, my role being related to direct patient care was highly scrutinized by preceptors who took their valuable time to monitor my every move in sterility, passing medications, proper patient positioning, collecting diagnostic specimen etc. Working in a level 1 trauma center we receive the sickest and most immunocompromised patients in the state on a daily basis. Despite being on a surgical team of highly trained professionals, where a level of trust takes significant time to build, there are still costly mistakes being made related to human error. Lowering the standard of training for a Surgical Technologist would be a detriment to best patient outcome and increase financial ramifications to the hospital where hyper vigilance is imperative. My required training before entering the hospital setting was something I would not receive as an apprentice thrown into a very fast paced unique environment, where the potential for more harm than good is eminent. When I graduated from MHCC I was adequately prepared and confident in my position as a CST with still plenty of room to learn and grow that will come with many more years of practice. Earning this level of trust should come with adequate training and be the quintessential standard without exceptions for every patient to receive the highest quality of care they deserve.