

Submitter: Malathi Hudson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4106

Attn: Senate Committee on Health Care  
RE: HB4106

Greetings,

My name is Malathi Hudson and I have been a certified surgical technologist for four years, mostly in the state of Oregon. I completed my training through an accredited program in southern California, obtaining an associates degree in Surgical Technology. I feel that formal training through an educational institution was the cornerstone of being the confident technologist I am today. I was taught the history of the profession, substantial anatomy and physiology, and most importantly proper sterile technique and surgical conscience. My knowledge and skills were tested weekly. I was allowed to make errors in a safe, controlled environment. My missteps as a student did not cost the school hundreds or thousands of dollars and did no harm to patients. While I place great value on the clinical experience I received, I would not have been prepared enough had it not been prefaced by didactic style education.

For this reason I oppose HB4106. I do not believe that the lack of staffing is call for such extreme measures like allowing untrained employees to learn at the expense of real patient lives. Allowing this bill to pass could mean a sharp increase in hospital acquired infections and unsafe working conditions. Patient safety and advocacy is my utmost concern, and helping improve the quality of others' lives is why I go to work every day. My coworkers and I are not just "practicing" surgical technology, we are formally educated and trained to do so. We are capable, adaptable, and constantly learning, but with the basis of knowledge from our training. I ask that we resolve this health care crisis in another way. Please do not pass bill HB4106.