

Submitter: Hayden Dickinson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4106

I am a student about to graduate in the Surgical technology program in at Mt. Hood Community College. This Program has a long history of preparing students for the demanding job of a Surgical Technologist.

HB4106 would allow hospitals to make the job of a surgical technologist into an apprenticeship and put people into the operating room with minimal training before they would work alongside a surgeon. This will degrade the quality of care a patient will receive along with slowing down all operating room operations. I spent an entire year learning before I set foot in an operating room, this year was spent learning about instruments, equipment, infection prevention, duties, ethics and sterility. In reality the learning started before I entered the Mt. Hood Program, as I had to have a broad background in science classes before I could be considered for acceptance into the Program. Sterility and how to maintain it is one of the most important jobs of a surgical technologist. Patients in the operating room are extremely susceptible to even the smallest amount of contamination and allowing someone with minimal training to work in the operating room would only put patients at risk. Ethics or "surgical conscience" is also an issue, it is my duty as a member of the surgical team to speak up for the patient in the operating room because they are physically unable to while we are operating on them. If I see something wrong such, as a missing sponge, that could be inside of the patient or a wrong site operation, it is my duty to speak up and be an advocate for the patient. This type of training is learned in the classroom and not inside the operating room. This job isn't for everyone, and some would only see it as just another job. To turn this job into an apprenticeship would require constant supervision by other surgical team members and slow down their duties just so the new hire can learn the most basic things about the operating room. This will take away from their duties and make their jobs harder.

We work with blood, bones, disease, emergencies, stressed patients, children, and people at their most vulnerable this job is not for everyone.

The fact that HB4106 passed unanimously in the house is alarming, I understand there is a shortage of surgical technologists, the only thing that will change if this passes is there will soon be a shortage of competent surgical technologists. If the worker shortage is to be solved we can make more programs, most people don't even know what a surgical tech is or does so awareness could also be raised for our profession.

I also want to add that as a student of the Mt. Hood Surgical Technology Program, I

have been taught to speak up when I see protocol not being followed. I don't think this is something that can be learned on the job.

Thank you for your time.

Hayden Dickinson.