

HB 4106

I herby oppose to the bill 4106 to be passed in the state of Oregon allowing those to practice surgical technology based off an apprenticeship program. I am currently a second years (second term) as a Surgical Technologist student at Mount Hood Community College, with clinical training in hospitals since October of 2021. I as well have a bachelors of science degree in Kinesiology.

Reasons as follows:

1. Everyone working in the OR has a degree or schooling. It is a high stakes environment, so having someone with the work ethic it takes to go through the surgical technology program will help make the OR a safe and effective environment.

My entire first year of the Surgical Technology program was based on sterile technique and how an OR operates, without even stepping foot into an OR. With The US specifically having one of the highest rate of SSI (which is our job to control and reduce that in the OR), having someone with the limited experience of sterile technique it makes for a more dangerous environment to the patient.

2. OR environment being such a specialized place that is not for everyone. Working in health care and the OR is a very tough job. It is hard mentally and physically. If we stick people with limited to no education it will only make the outcomes worse. People wont be prepared for what these jobs entail. I value education highly. I think it helps one develop skills that it takes to deal with situations, work with others, and processing conflicts effectively, which is very important in the OR. I don't see how diminishing education will increase the amount interested in this career, it will only make people less prepared, therefore being more afraid to work in this environment.

A conclusion:

What needs to take place to solve the issue of the shortage of Surgical Technologist is increasing popularity in this field. On a regular no one had heard of this field until I began the program. The lack of understanding the OR has needs to become more widely popularized and talked about the roles in the OR. I believe this will increase the interest in the field by marketing and expanding programs, as well as flexibility on the program based on schools, hospitals, etc. I think we will be creating a bigger safety hazard, and danger to the patients in the OR if we diminish education in this field.