

Submitter: Camron Forney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

Surgical technologists are a vital part of the surgical team. Our role is not just to pass instruments, our specialty is the sterile field and sterile technique. We are the one that ensures your instruments are sterile, and that the sterile field is set up, and maintained for your procedure. We are the ones that ensure that your surgeon has the instruments, supplies and implants that they need for your case to ensure it goes smoothly so you spend as little time under anesthesia as possible. We are your surgeons right hand when theirs is busy.

Working in this field is grueling, and yes we have a shortage right now but barriers to education is not the reason. We are over worked, and under paid. Many have left the field for other careers with either better pay or lower stress and fewer hours. Many others have left to travel for contract work because wages are higher. Most that work in healthcare are in this situation. While healthcare systems are making record profits, and CEOs are making millions plus bonuses the people actually caring for patients are over worked exhausted burnt out and meanwhile are under paid and raised don't even keep up with inflation.

The last thing this or any other healthcare profession needs is lower standards of education. Subsidies for education? Yes. Better pay? Yes. More instructors? Yes. Pay caps for CEO's? Yes. Better staffing ratios? Yes. But this bill is not an answer. More will leave the field for better careers, retire all together, or turn to traveling.

The only thing this bill will accomplish is worse patient outcomes, higher rates of surgical site infections, and more money in the pockets of healthcare administrators. Please vote no on this bill and work on legislation to raise wages for all healthcare workers, subsidize education at at least the associates degree level with grants, and provide long distance or virtual education with clinical sites available at more hospitals. Work on creating caahep programs at more community colleges and testing sites for caahep accredited programs. Ncct is a substandard organization and not the national standard for certification and is not universally recognized.

If you make education affordable, and the profession lucrative enough for people to be able to at least support themselves while elevating the standards for education you will not only fix the staffing issues you will improve patient outcomes.

Please consider not only corporate profits when voting on this legislation, but the outcome of patients healthcare. Think for a moment when your loved ones are having surgery. Would you want the most experienced and educated person possible with a mastery of sterile technique to assist the surgeon, or just whoever happens to

volunteer to be trained? All healthcare workers are a vital part of the team, and need to have the highest level of training and education possible to elevate patient outcomes. Please consider this in your vote.