

Submitter: Stacie Chaney
On Behalf Of: Oregon Certified Surgical Technologists
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB4106

I am opposed to a Bill that would take the career that all Certified Surgical Technologists across the country have worked so hard to achieve. The technological advances in medicine alone is enough to say this is not acceptable. Surgical technology is a highly skilled profession and we are an integral part of the surgical team. The knowledge that we must possess to anticipate a surgeons needs for any procedure we are assigned to is not learned on the fly. It takes a wealth of education and practical skill training before we ever step foot in a clinical setting.

When medical students and medical residents come to the operating room, we are the ones who are explaining proper hand antisepsis, how to don their gown and gloves, and how to avoid contamination. When the surgeon comes to the OR he looks in that room to see who his surgical technologist is that will work with him that day. There is a level of comfort they gain in knowing that they have a properly trained surgical technologist by their side during that patients most vulnerable time.

There is a healthcare shortage across America right now and it's happening in every field and department. There is absolutely no way anyone would ever consider bringing someone from off the street to "train" on the job to be a nurse because of a shortage. There must be some confusion on what our job description entails. Maybe you weren't aware that in a nurses training they barely walk through the surgical suite. They may observe for a few hours but that is about the length of their operating room exposure in school. Certified Surgical Technologists go to school specifically to perform this role.

The idea that those who support this Bill, think that an apprenticeship program would prepare someone to walk into an operating room and scrub into a trauma without formal training has to be delusional. I would not want to be the patient on that table. Would you want your family to be on that table?

I will leave you all with this thought, the fact that you want to take away what the Certified Surgical Technologists in Oregon fought for back in 2015, which was mandatory certification from an ACCREDITED program, is a slap in their face. You need a license to wash hair in Oregon but I guess when you have a patients health in your hands, education, training and certification isn't of importance.

Thank you for your time,

Stacie Chaney, CST, AAS, F.A.S.T.