

Submitter: Terry FitzPatrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3596

Our Surgery Center, the Oregon SurgiCenter provides critical surgery services to patients throughout the Willamette Valley. We employ a number of community members and serve thousands of patients in the Eugene/Springfield area with high quality care. We need your urgent assistance on a bill that has been referred to your committee, and which is essential to the surgery centers and hospitals in Lane County and throughout the entire Willamette Valley area.

For 5+ years, we've been working to address a severe shortage of surgical technologists in ASCs and Hospitals throughout the state. The problem is that the existing - - and statutorily limited - - training system only generates about a dozen Surg Techs, and we see individual hospitals that have that many openings each year.

HB4106 (2022 Session) is the vehicle we believe will finally address the shortage. It passed unanimously in both the House and Senate Health Committees, 54-1 on the House floor, and 27-2 on the Senate floor. The goal of the bill to streamline the apprenticeship program to make it more workable for the workforce and enable experienced out of state surgical technologists to get certified upon demonstrating competency, experience and education with OHA approval and oversight.

Now, HB 3596 has been introduced and needs your support as well. This new bill is a merely a technical fix for HB 4106

HB 4106 is a top priority not only of the ASCs but also of the Hospital systems. We urgently need to get HB 3596 passed so we can finally get the apprenticeship program set up. We are asking for your help in making sure that we get this bill through the Legislature this year.

Sincerely,

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