

Chairman Nosse, members of the Committee,

My name is Maya Cole.

I am a surgical technology student in Benton County.

We oppose removing the requirement for accredited education from the current law, which this legislation does even with the amendment.

The legislative record from last year reflects that multiple legislators voted in favor of the legislation only because of the high educational standards in the legislation.

Well educated surgical technologists are in a position to prevent costly mistakes. Many hospital-acquired conditions are surgery related, such as surgical site infections and a foreign object retained after surgery.

Well educated surgical technologists also save facilities money by preventing long delays and not throwing away expensive equipment. A single mistake of accidentally throwing away equipment, such as robotic equipment, can cost more than a car.

Surgical technologists' role in preventing surgical site infections readily demonstrates their impact on healthcare costs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in its Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections, cited that surgical site infections result in an estimated 13,088 deaths per year and cost hospitals more than \$25,000 per infection.

Thank you for your time.

Maya Cole
Surgical Technology Student
Corvallis, Oregon