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**Testimony of Lori Crowder, MHA, BSN, RN, CNOR, FACHE
Executive Director, Perioperative Services
Children's National Hospital
before
Senate Finance Committee
IN OPPOSITION OF
SB 874: Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Facilities – Surgical Technologists
March 7, 2024**

Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 874. My name is Lori Crowder, and I am the Executive Director of Perioperative Services at Children's National Hospital. Children's National has been serving the nation's children since 1870. Nearly 60% of our patients are residents of Maryland, and we maintain a network of community-based pediatric practices, surgery centers, and regional outpatient centers in Annapolis, Frederick, Fulton, Rockville, Silver Spring and our newest location in Lanham, Maryland.

Senate Bill 874 would prohibit hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities in Maryland from employing surgical technologists unless they successfully complete an educational program nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools for Surgical Technologists and holds a certified surgical technologist credential administered by a nationally recognized surgical technologist certifying body.

In recent years, states have passed legislation to oversee the surgical technologist profession. Few states require both graduation from an accredited program and certification. This requirement will further contribute to the surgical technologist shortage and limit the availability of agency technologists to help mitigate workforce shortages in hospitals and

surgery centers. For example, we have a 26% vacancy rate of surgical technologists at our main hospital and an even higher rate of 34-40% at our Ambulatory Surgical Centers in Maryland. It should also be noted that without similar requirements in the District of Columbia and Virginia, technologists who do not meet the Maryland requirements will seek employment in our neighboring states. Alternatively, baseline educational requirements and annual continuing educational requirements while allowing certification to be determined by the employer have been enacted in many states.

For these reasons, we request an **unfavorable report** on Senate Bill 874. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to respond to any questions you may have.