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Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1006 Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Facilities—

Surgical Technologists

March 6th, 2024

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Madam Vice-Chair and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I'm Delegate Pam Guzzone representing Howard County's District 13 and I am here in support of House Bill 1006 which establishes guidelines for Surgical Technologist certification.

Surgical Technologists are the member of the surgical team that maintains the sterile surgical field to prevent surgical site infections. They are also integral to the prevention of "never events" including medication errors, surgical implant errors and surgical site errors as well as unintended retained surgical items and patient burns.

Currently there are about 2,000 surgical technicians in Maryland and it, unfortunately, is a medical position with one of the highest vacancy rate in the state.

The bill would establish certification requirements for the position, including that surgical technicians must graduate from an accredited educational program and pass the certified surgical tech exam. It includes exceptions for all currently employed surgical techs and military trained techs. This is not a new licensing regime, health care facilities verify the surgical technologists and apprenticeships can be used as the clinical experience in the credentialed education program.

Thank you for your attention and I request a favorable report on HB 1006