



Dear Senator,

We are surgeons licensed to practice in the state of Arkansas, and we are writing to urge your support of the proposed Arkansas Surgical Technologists Act, which would create a registry of surgical technologists in the State. Surgical technologists are the individuals responsible for prepping and maintaining the essential “sterile field” before and during a surgery. They often perform critical tasks, like managing specimens collected during surgery, or dressing closed wounds. Their work is vital to preventing surgical site infections, and their presence on the surgical team helps ensure successful operations. There is currently no State mechanism in place to track this growing and important profession.

As a surgeon, I personally take every step possible to make sure my team members are prepared and qualified for their roles in the operating room. However, having a simple registry of qualified individuals will help further ensure the surgical technologists performing these essential operating room duties are adequately trained, helping us reach the healthiest possible patient outcomes. Dozens of individuals graduate from Arkansas’s eight accredited surgical technologist programs every year. However, the State has no way to keep up with or oversee those entering the profession. Many states require a mandatory certification for surgical technologists. This measure does not do that. It would simply create a registry to help identify and track the qualified individuals who play such a vital role in providing quality care for our surgical patients.

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE PAGE

Physician Name (printed) _____

Physician Signature _____

Title _____

Date signed _____