Florida State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Who Is Behind the Mask?

Mock Surgery to be Demonstrated at State House

Tallahassee, March 15 - On Thursday, March 24, from 12-1 PM, lawmakers will get an up close look at a total knee replacement surgery at the steps of the Florida State Capitol. Representative "Doc" Renuart, a physician and House sponsor of the Surgical Technologists Bill (HB1197), will "scrub in" as a surgical team member. Senator Evelyn Lynn, companion bill sponsor (SB1064), is expected to attend. Florida Certified Surgical Technologists are putting on a mock surgery to demonstrate the crucial role of all members of the surgical team, particularly the role of the surgical technologist. The group is calling on lawmakers to establish requirements for surgical technologists, a profession that is expected to grow 25 percent by 2018. Surgical technologists are the experts in the operating room on sterility and preventing surgical site infections, yet Florida law does not require surgical technologists to have *any* education or certification. Lawmakers are considering legislation to require the surgical technologist credential and graduation from an accredited program in surgical technology. Several states have passed similar legislation.

Libby McNaron, Vice President of the Florida State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists, states, "Today, in operating rooms throughout Florida, literally hundreds of surgeries are being performed.   Perhaps, you or a loved one has had surgery recently. With the rise of surgical site infections, proper education is vital. Patients assume everyone in the operating room is credentialed, yet surgical technologists remain the only member of the surgical team not required to meet minimum education and certification standards."

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