

My name is Logan Threet. I live in Wichita, and I'm currently the **Surgical Technology Program Director at Wichita Area Technical College** (*Wichita State University Campus of Applied Science and Technology*). I also serve as Vice President for the Kansas State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists. I am a **Certified Surgical Technologist (CST)**, and I have been a practicing CST for 17 years now. I am currently employed at *Wesley Medical Center* in Wichita.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill No. 338, relating to the practice of surgical technology and requiring new surgical technologists to become certified to practice in the State of Kansas. We are seeing many hospitals adopting into their own policy, that surgical technologists are certified. We want to ensure we can meet that demand and prepare our graduates to earn the CST credential. The accredited programs in the state have consistently demonstrated that we have a CST pass rate of over 90% when our students enter the workforce.

As an educator my primary objective is to graduate a well-trained surgical technologist who has been through a nationally-accredited program that follows the most current core curriculum. Being one of the largest surgical technology institutions in Kansas that produces surgical technologists sets a higher bar for us because we have a large impact on the workforce. Therefore, we strive to teach our students be the best patient advocate possible, which means the patient's safety always comes first. Our surgical patients should have a highly-qualified team at their side because they instill all their trust in their surgical team members. Gaining certification as a surgical technologist will ensure the best care is delivered.

Certification means more accountability to our profession and with continuing education, surgical technologists will always be up to date on the latest surgical practices. As a graduate from an accredited college and holding my CST certification from the National Board of Surgical Technology means I must achieve 60 continuing education credits every 4 years to renew my certification. Surgical technologists have the opportunity to earn continuing education credits for free at their hospitals or by attending workshops.

Not all Kansas hospitals require certification for surgical technologists to work in the operating room. But we are finding that hospitals do *prefer* a surgical technologist that has passed the certification exam. This holds those that have a CST to a much higher accountability, giving the employers peace of mind knowing they meet a standard and are competent to work in the operating room.

Thank you for taking the time to hear from us today. With your support, the Kansas State Assembly for the Association of Surgical Technologists hopes to make certification the standard. Please help us show that Kansas puts the patient first. Knowing that anytime we find ourselves or our loved ones in the operating room, that they have qualified, Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) at their bedside, delivering the best care possible.

Thank You,

Logan Ray Threet, CST, VP KSA
Director of Surgical Technology, Wichita Area Technical College