

**From:** Association of Surgical Technologists [governmentaffairs@ast.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@ast.org)  
**Subject:** Congratulations Oregon Certified Surgical Technologists!!  
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**To:** [mgaringer@gmail.com](mailto:mgaringer@gmail.com)



## Governor Kate Brown signs Oregon Surgical Technologist legislation into law!



Congratulations Oregon Certified Surgical Technologists! Governor Kate Brown just signed House Bill 2876, "Turner's Law." This new law creates minimum education, certification and continuing education standards for surgical technologists working in Oregon!

This historic and spectacular achievement is the culmination of more than a decade of advocacy and education by Oregon surgical technologists dedicated to surgical patient safety. In fact, the Board of Directors of the Oregon State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists has decided to name this law, "Turner's Law" in honor of Deborah A. Turner, CST, CSFA, who began this effort more than a decade ago. Deb Turner laid the groundwork, engaged and empowered fellow surgical technologists, and when the legislative effort was resumed, legislators were familiar with the issue and ready to listen. Catherine Rice, CST; Michael Hearn, CST and David Wiper, CST, CSFA, were also key leaders who helped advance the cause in the early years.



Deborah A. Turner,  
CST, CSFA

Tom Dentlett, CST, resumed and self-funded the initiative in

Tara Barnett Kruse, CST, resumed and seamlessly led the initiative in 2013, securing sponsorship and critical support from many key legislators. Tara also engaged other leaders including, but not limited to Don Dreese, CST, CSFA; Melissa Garinger, CST; Carol Hogenkamp, CST; Michael Hearn, CST; Victoria Fleming, CST; and David Wiper, CST, CSFA. They offered valuable support and many took time off to go to Salem to testify and show solidarity.

Numerous other CSTs have supported this effort, written letters and participated in grassroots tactics. In fact, Oregon AST membership set records when contacting the Governor to urge her to sign the bill into law. Nearly 100 members sent letters to Governor Kate Brown in less than 5 days, a record percentage of membership. The persistence, determination and team approach by the Oregon State Assembly is an example of advocacy at its best.

The legislation was introduced February 4, 2015. Quickly AST and OR-AST were involved in heavy negotiations with the Oregon Hospital Association in the House with tremendous support from Representative Greenlick, Chair of the House Health Committee, and Representative Buehler, a physician and committed civic leader. House Bill 2876 passed the House on April 27, 2015, was heard in the Senate Committee in May, and Senator Knopp carried the bill all the way through the Senate, and it passed the Senate on June 2, 2015.

Informational materials regarding the law will soon be available on the AST Map of State Laws in the Public Policy section of the AST website. The law is available at <http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2015/HB2876/>. The first effective date in the law is July 1, 2016 to allow time for OR-AST and AST to educate members and employers about the law.

Congratulations to all!

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