

December 30, 2015

Ron Briel, Program Manager
Division of Public Health, Licensure Unit
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Briel:

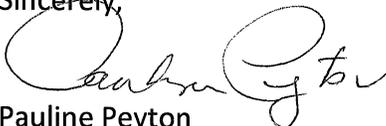
I oppose the licensure of surgical technologists that is being considered by the 407 committee.

I have been a practicing surgical technologist since 1970. I entered the field through an on-the-job training program at Clarkson Hospital, which is now Nebraska Medicine. I was actually hired to work in Clarkson's kitchen, but was moved to the surgery department because they were short staffed. I learned sterile technique, the proper handling and cleaning of equipment, and how to assist in surgery in multiple specialties.

I was 20 when I became a surgical technologist. As a high school graduate, I didn't have the resources to attend college. They didn't call us 'low-income' back then; they called our families 'blue collar.' The surgical technology field provided me with a stable and fulfilling career that meshed nicely with my family life. The surgical technology allowed my husband and me to comfortably raise two children, and I've been able to continue to be productive even though I passed the traditional retirement age several years ago.

If mandatory training, certification and licensure had been required for me to enter the field, I couldn't have afforded it. The proposed requirements would have prevented me from having this long and successful career, and in the future it will prevent low-income individuals from having the career I've enjoyed. I strongly oppose these licensure requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pauline Peyton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pauline" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Peyton".

Pauline Peyton
8846 Ruggles Circle
Omaha, NE 68134