

Questions #5 & #6 from Committee member Tenny:

5. The costs to individual Technologists certainly will rise (license, maintenance of certification...). Isn't it reasonable to assume salaries will rise?

6. In my experience, when professionals seek licensure, they do it in the hope of third party reimbursement (billing patients or insurers for services). Is this a goal for Surgical Technologists?

5) As presented in the application on pages 30-33, the data from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics shows that wages of surgical technologists in states which have implemented mandatory certification and/or education have not increased at a higher rate than any other state that has not implemented such requirements. Wages of surgical technologists do increase over time associated with increases in the cost of living in the area where the surgical technologist is employed. The data shows that the increase in surgical technologist wages is consistent between states that have regulations in place and states that do not.

6) The goal of establishment of a license for surgical technologists in Nebraska is the assurance of patient safety. Surgical technologists are employed by hospitals and surgical centers and are not reimbursed separately for the services that they provide. Surgical technologists are not seeking to be able to receive third party reimbursement through the establishment of a license for the profession. There are several other health professions that are licensed that do not receive third party reimbursement including radiology technologists, respiratory therapists, and registered nurses. Surgical technologists will continue to be employed by hospitals or surgery centers and continue to function under the supervision of the surgeon and the registered nurse if a license is created. They will not function as licensed independent practitioners.