

Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee
House Bill 196 Proponent Testimony
Derick Brown, Certified Surgical Assistant (Toledo)
March 1, 2022

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, my name is Derick Brown. I am employed at the University of Toledo Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio as a Certified Surgical Assistant.

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 196, which seeks to license Surgical Assistants. Our profession plays a vital role for ensuring a successful operation. We are responsible for (but not limited to) actively assisting the surgeon as directed, positioning, and draping the patient, maintaining hemostasis, performing wound closures, sometimes complex, affixing, and stabilizing drains, holding retractors, harvesting veins, applying casts, splints, immobilizers, and wound dressings, ensuring the correct equipment is present, knowing the surgeon's preferences and being able to anticipate the next steps of the case. We essentially lend the surgeon another pair of hands. The operating room can be challenging, high stress and often has time constraints which is why the surgical assistant's role is so important. The surgical assistant can manage constantly changing environments, maintain patient safety while ensuring the surgeon's needs are taken care of and a good patient outcome is met.

A measurable amount of time is saved for the patient with a surgical assistant because they are closing the wound. This results in shorter case times which then can increase the total number of cases while reducing morbidity and mortality rates. We are nationally certified and required to maintain certification by earning continuing education credits. As highly skilled professionals I feel we should be a licensed professional with the duties we perform and the level of skill we have. Other licensed professionals such as the physician assistant perform similar roles in the operating room as we do.

I am in full support of House Bill 196. Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Derick Brown