



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133

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Committees

Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Chair

April 13, 2011

Susan C. Fargo, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 504
Boston, MA 02133

Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Fargo and Chairman Sanchez:

I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1069**, "*An Act Relative to Surgical Technology*," which is being heard by the Joint Committee on Public Health today.

This bill requires certification of newly practicing surgical technologists. **S1069** has evolved through collaboration among surgical technologists, surgeons, nurses, operating room managers and the hospital association. This legislation has no opposition and has the support of Dr. Walter Ettinger, President of UMass Memorial Medical Center. Last session, this legislation passed the Joint Committee on Public Health and Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and did not pass only because time ran out.

The surgical technology legislation has no fiscal impact to the state and the enforcement process is consistent with current hospital hiring protocol. I support this legislation because it enhances patient safety for all patients undergoing surgery. Currently, surgical technologists are the only personnel in the operating room not required to be licensed, certified or registered. Unqualified surgical technologists can harm patients with lack of sterile technique, poorly-assembled surgical equipment and surgical inefficiencies. My constituents have worked hard on this legislation and

I appreciate your consideration. I request that the Joint Committee on Public Health release this bill with a favorable report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen M. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'M'.

STEPHEN M. BREWER

Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin

SMB/ab