

My name is Matthew Souder MD, I am a board certified general surgeon. I will be in practice for 6 years as of August of 2018. I am currently employed by Wellspan Medical Group. I work at Ephrata Community Hospital where I am the Chairman of the Department of Surgery.

I have the unique perspective, in that, I originally trained as a surgical technologist at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA. I graduated from the program with a certificate in surgical technology and obtained my Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) credential from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) after completion of the program. I worked as a CST for approximately three years full time then part time for another 4 years until I started my clinical rotations in medical school.

I feel very strongly that all members of the operating room team undergo formal education and certification appropriate to their level of skill. Not only does this ensure that we as a team are providing good patient care, it also helps to ensure that we are providing a safe and competent team in the operating room. In my opinion, **House Bill 1805** helps achieve this goal. Surgical Technologists are the only members of the operating room team that are not required at this point by law, to adhere to a set of standards in terms of educational training program and post-graduation certification and maintenance. It is my firm belief that all members of the operating team be held to a set standard of educational and continuing education requirements appropriate to their level of training.

Thank you,

Matthew Souder, MD