March 11, 2013

Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Public Health Committee Member:

I am writing to urge you to support No. 894, which requires the certification of central service technicians in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. This bill is before the Public Health Committee on March 15th.

I am a Central Service Training Coordinator at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London, CT.

Last year, the Today Show on NBC and NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams aired a story on dirty surgical instruments in health care facilities, which lead to infections in patients. Here is a link to the story: http://todayhealth.today.com/_news/2012/02/22/10471434-today-investigates-dirty-surgical-instruments-a-problem-in-the-or

Central service technicians are responsible for ensuring that instrumentation and equipment used in medical and surgical procedures are properly cleaned, disinfected, inspected and sterilized prior to patient use. Clearly, this is a critical component in the delivery of quality patient care and a step in the right direction of lowering health care costs overall.

I am a member of the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM), which represents approximately 19,000 central service technicians in the U.S. and abroad who facilitate the procurement, management and processing of surgical instruments, supplies and equipment.

We believe central service technicians must be certified and receive continuing education in order to perform their daily duties safely, effectively and consistently. New Jersey is the only state to require certification for central service technicians.

Please support No. 894 when it comes before your committee on March 15th.

Sincerely,

Barbara Palumbo

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