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June 2, 2017

The Honorable Jason Lewis
Senate Chair, Joint Public Health Committee
State House, Room 511B
Boston, MA 01233

The Honorable Kate Hogan
House Chair, Joint Public Health Committee
State House, Room 130
Boston, MA 01233

Regarding: Senate Bill 1205

Dear Senate Chair Lewis and House Chair Hogan:

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), a nonprofit, multidisciplinary organization whose mission is to create a safer world through the prevention of infection, urges your support for S. 1205. This legislation would require central service technicians to obtain certification and annually complete 10 hours of continuing education credits.

Contaminated medical equipment can increase the risk of surgical site infections. As noted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 157,500 surgical site infections occur per year. They prolong hospital stays, which increases the cost of care and are a substantial cause of serious illness, and death.¹

Central service technicians are a critical part of the team of professionals dedicated to preventing such infections. They play an important role in protecting patients from these deadly and costly infections by ensuring that instrumentation and equipment used in medical and surgical procedures are properly cleaned, disinfected, inspected, and sterilized prior to patient use -- a critical component in the delivery of quality patient care. As central service technicians face ever-evolving technology, instrumentation and standards, certification will ensure that technicians remain well-versed on instrument processing practices and demonstrates their commitment to safety and quality.

We respectfully request your support for S. 1205 to help ensure that Massachusetts central service technicians will be encouraged to earn certification, and continue in their pursuit of excellent practice through ongoing education. Their role in patient safety is integral to the goal of creating a safer healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda R. Greene RN, MPS, CIC, FAPIC".

Linda Greene, RN, MPS, CIC, FAPIC
2017 APIC President

¹ Magill SS, Edwards JR, Bamberg W, et al. Multistate Point-Prevalence Survey of Health Care-Associated Infections. External Web Site Icon N Engl J Med 2014;370:1198-208.