



1400 Crystal Drive  
Suite 900  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: 202/789-1890  
Fax: 202/789-1899  
[apicinfo@apic.org](mailto:apicinfo@apic.org)  
[www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org)

February 14, 2018

House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

*Regarding: House Bill 7269*

Dear Chairman McNamara:

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 H. 7269. This legislation would require central service technicians to obtain certification and annually complete 10 hours of continuing education.

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.<sup>1</sup>

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 H. 7269 to help ensure that Rhode Island 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 'Janet Haas'.

Janet Haas, PhD, RN, CIC, FSHEA, FAPIC  
2018 APIC President

<sup>1</sup> 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.