

November 2, 2016

Cook County Budget Hearings

Maybrook Court House,

Unjust layoffs of Orthopedic Technologists

Good evening Cook County Commissioners,

My name is Tim Babbington and I have been an Orthopedic Technologist for over 30 years at Cook County Stroger Hospital. The entire classification of Orthopedic Technologists has been slated for deletion in this proposed budget. We are a veteran group of original instructors for the first Orthopedic Training Program in the Country.

We have over 150 years of combined experience and there have been very little complaints against our work. We have a unique set of skills based on our technical knowledge. We apply casts, splints, do suture and pin removals, wound care, dressings, bone stimulation. We work with multi fractures, burn patients, diabetic skin problems. We specialize in fixing problems that may have been done when lesser experienced providers apply casts. Common problems that we fix are when casts are too tight (and the person's circulation is cut off, when casts are incorrectly applied, the patient's can get indentations which can cause pressure sores.

Bringing in lesser skilled staff in casting and splinting would be both dangerous and costly. The wait in the Ortho clinic is already excessively long. Using Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants in our role, would make the clinic wait even longer, because that would take them out of seeing patients as providers and that would make the wait even longer.

We have done great work and we do not understand why our jobs are being eliminated. I would not like to think that is retaliation against a whole classification of six Orthopedic Technologists because our colleague Gerald Cotton has been a whistleblower. Unfortunately I cannot come up with any other reason.

Please keep the Orthopedic Technologists in the budget.

Sincerely,

Timothy Babbington

Orthopedic Technologist.