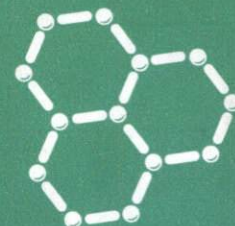


PROTECT HEALTH CARE WORKER SAFETY

✓ Vote Yes on HB19-1041

BILL SPONSORS:

Representative Buckner
& Senator Rodriguez



DANGEROUS EFFECTS!

The harmful effects of surgical smoke and its dangerous contaminants are well documented. Surgical smoke is full of carcinogenic and mutagenic cells, can include over 150 hazardous chemicals, including all 16 U.S. EPA Priority Pollutant PAHs, and likely exposes OR staff to biological (human) contaminants including aerosolized blood.

When surgical smoke is not evacuated, everyone in the operating room – an enclosed space – is put in harm's way.

WHAT IS SURGICAL SMOKE?

Surgical smoke is the result of the interaction of human tissue with mechanical tools and/or heat-producing devices such as lasers and electro-surgery knives used for dissection and hemostasis.

2x

Perioperative nurses report twice as many respiratory issues as compared to the general population.

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SEWALD HANFLING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SUPPORT WORKPLACE SAFETY



Colorado may soon be facing a nursing shortage. Guaranteeing a workplace free of surgical smoke is one way to recruit and retain the best OR nurses.



Affordable modern technology allows for evacuation of smoke, protects patients, doctors, nurses, and other surgical staff and does not hamper surgery.



This legislation does not tell facilities how they have to evacuate surgical smoke; it simply requires that facilities have policies to protect health care workers by ensuring surgical smoke is evacuated.

 **AORN**