



Submitted Comments of
CT Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Before the
Public Health Committee
On
SB 894, AAC Persons Who Decontaminate Medical Instruments.
March 15, 2013

The sterilization and decontamination of medical instruments and devices is an issue that we take very seriously. In fact, our sister organization, The Ambulatory Surgery Center Patient Safety Organization is in the process of developing educational programs on this very topic. It affects both the safety of our patients and the quality of care we provide.

As drafted, however, SB 894 presents some operational issues for Connecticut's Ambulatory Surgery Centers.

At the present time, there is not an adequate supply of certified central service technicians available to fill this role within Connecticut's facilities. Facilities looking to hire new staff members to work in this position will require time to provide the needed training and certification to someone new to the position. Additionally, it's not clear how this bill would be applied to strictly GI endoscopic facilities (which are covered by the regs for Outpatient Surgical Facilities (19a-493b)), whose scope decontamination protocols differ significantly from the instrument sterilization techniques used in surgical facilities.

Additional training and education in this area is certainly a positive step in the right direction. It is important to note that every Ambulatory Surgery Center is already required to have a designated individual for "infection control" and must provide documentation of appropriate training for that individual when inspected by the Department of Public Health.

We welcome the opportunity to work with this committee to address any concerns that exist with the proper decontamination and sterilization of medical instruments, to help improve the current draft of SB 894, and to promote educational opportunities for our members on this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration.