



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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March 9, 2016 * 11:00am * 2E

Testimony on rHB 5493 An Act Phasing Out The Ambulatory Surgical Center Tax.

Dear Chairmen Fonfara and Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Davis, and distinguished members of the Finance Committee:

I thank you for adding **rHB 5493 An Act Phasing Out The Ambulatory Surgical Center Tax** on today's agenda. The tax was enacted in Public Act 15-244 during the regular session and amended in Public Act 15-5 during the June special session. I respectfully ask the committee to modify the current proposal with language calling for a repeal of this tax.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers are an important part of our healthcare system in meeting the needs of our residents. Two ambulatory centers are located in the city of Danbury and several others are located in close proximity to my hometown of New Milford. The continuation of this tax does not help in the goal of providing affordable healthcare services and will have a negative impact to medical care access due to ambulatory centers forcing to close.

According to OFA as of January 31, 2016 \$2.1 million has been collected by the Department of Revenue Services at the end of the first quarter. According to the January consensus revenue estimate on this tax, \$11.3 million is to be collected this fiscal year. The negative aspects of this tax outweigh the potential collections the state may receive under current law or any phase-out schedule outlined in rHB 5493.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Cecilia Buck-Taylor