

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to encourage your support of The ASC Tax phase out bill (HB 5493).

ASCs allow patients to access care quickly, easily and cost-effectively. These facilities have enabled providers to remain in independent practice, something the Connecticut General Assembly has identified as critical to the state's health care delivery system. In one year alone, Connecticut patients saved more than \$1 million in health insurance co-pays by electing to have colonoscopies in ASCs rather than more costly hospital outpatient departments. (Based on an analysis of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2012 data).

As a practicing Gastroenterologist in CT, I can attest to the efficiency and cost savings that patients and payers benefit from each day in our facility. United/Oxford health plans have made ASCs their in-network providers for outpatient procedures due to the high quality care we provide at a much lower cost than hospital-owned facilities. We should be encouraging physicians to stay independent and encouraging use of ASCs for patients throughout our state. The ASC tax will generate a relatively small amount of revenue for the state but will be crippling for centers such as ours that already operate on thin margins with high overhead. We employ numerous full-time employees.

Please support The ASC Tax phase out bill (HB 5493).

Thank you for your consideration.

Neal Schamberg, MD