



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION®

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March 8, 2016

The General Assembly of Connecticut
Joint Committee on Financing, Revenue and Bonding
The Honorable John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair
The Honorable Jeffrey J. Berger, Co-Chair
The Honorable Scott L. Frantz, Ranking Member
The Honorable Christopher Davis, Ranking Member

Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Support H.B. 5493, Repealing the Tax on Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Financing, Revenue and Bonding:

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) to register our support for H.B. 5493, phasing out the tax on Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) in Connecticut.

Founded in 1931, ASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members and 94 percent of all American Board of Plastic Surgery board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States. Because ASPS's mission includes ensuring that the healthcare marketplace allows physician-owned businesses to thrive, we fully support this legislative measure.

The tax on ASCs threatens years of progress toward making health care more affordable and accessible to everyone in Connecticut. H.B 5493 represents a step in the right direction. If passed, repealing the ASC tax will significantly decrease downstream healthcare costs and will stimulate job growth.

ASCs offer some of the highest quality and most cost effective care patients can receive. They provide safe, state of the art treatment at a fraction of the cost of hospital outpatient departments. ASC reimbursement rates are close to 50% less than those for outpatient hospital settings. This care quality is achieved in spite of the already sizeable overbearing regulatory burdens and increasing costs faced by these centers. Anecdotal evidence from other states has shown that taxing healthcare doesn't pay. Repealing the ASC tax will make more affordable health care choice available to Connecticut residents.

Additionally, repealing this tax is an important step in the right direction for Connecticut to start establishing itself as a welcoming marketplace for physicians. A recent poll ranked Connecticut as the **fifth least desirable** state to practice medicine, precisely for reasons like this tax. In the shadow of an ever worsening physician shortage, Connecticut needs to take strong steps toward enacting reforms that encourage physicians to practice and open businesses.

We respectfully urge the members of the Joint Committee on Financing, Revenue and Bonding to vote to support H.B. 5493. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact

Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs at phermes@plasticsurgery.org with any comments, questions or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Song", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Song, MD, MBA
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Cc: All Members of the Joint Committee on Financing, Revenue and Bonding