

**Connecticut Society of Plastic Surgeons  
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians  
Connecticut Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery Society  
Connecticut ENT Society  
Connecticut Urology Society  
Fairfield County Medical Association  
Connecticut State Medical Society**

**Statement of Support for  
SB 1131, An Act Concerning the Ambulatory Surgical Centers Tax**

**Before the Finance Committee**

**April 29, 2019**

On behalf of the thousands of healthcare providers that we represent, who provide care in Connecticut, and the hundreds of thousands of patients we care for, we respectfully request that you support SB 1131, An Act Concerning the Ambulatory Surgical Centers Tax.

By way of background, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, or ASCs, are modern health care facilities providing same-day surgical care, including diagnostic and preventive health care procedures that keep rising health care costs in check. ASCs perform roughly 200,000 medical procedures in Connecticut each year, in settings that allow doctors to exercise greater control over the surgical experience than in a hospital.

Our community-based facilities are highly regulated by the state and federal government and **save Connecticut patients millions of dollars each year**, though lower co-payments and lower deductibles.

ASCs have transformed the outpatient experience for Connecticut citizens by offering convenient, personalized, lower-priced alternatives to hospitals for procedures such as cataract surgery, endoscopies, colonoscopies, and more. In 2014 alone, Connecticut patients saved over \$6.4 million by having their colonoscopies performed in ASCs. In that same timeframe, patients in Connecticut who had cataract surgery in ASCs saved Medicare more than \$11 million.

(Source: ASCA)

A recent Connecticut study by the AMA highlighted the economic contributions of physicians in this state. ASCs are physician practices *and* engines for economic growth. Unfortunately, the ASC tax has had a chilling effect on the industry. The bill before you today will get our industry back on the right track.

We urge this committee to support changes to the tax that will preserve the continued role of

surgery centers in containing health care costs while providing high-quality health care to Connecticut residents.

The current ASC tax cripples centers by removing \$15 million in capital each year that would otherwise have been reinvested in staffing and cutting-edge medical technology. It also serves as a barrier to recruiting physicians, especially those who prefer to work in the small, entrepreneurial environment of an ASC, to Connecticut.

We urge you to support SB 1131 so that we can begin to expand access under the Medicaid program and generate health care savings for the state.

We are at a crossroads in health care, recognizing that ASCs are the high-quality, lower cost option for patients and payors alike, we need your help to ensure they remain a viable part of the health care delivery system. We urge your support for SB 1131.