

Hello, my name is Mary Clairmont and like Dr. McCormick I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my experience as an employee at Vermont's currently only Ambulatory Surgery Center.

I am a Registered Nurse. I obtained my nursing degrees from the University of Vermont, graduating with an ASN in 1990 then graduating with my BSN in 2006. In 2010 I graduated from UVM again with a certificate in Healthcare Management. I am a Vermonter, growing up in Shelburne, living there for 40 years and now I live in Williston with my husband, 2 dogs and 3 cats. My Son & Granddaughter live in Maine and my Daughter lives in Essex. I grew up with my father working at the Vermont Railway and a stay at home mom. It was the experience I had with birthing my daughter ( my second baby), that opened my eyes to the possibilities of becoming a nursing. I entered nursing school when she went into 1<sup>st</sup> grade!

After working 36 years at the local hospital - MCHV, FAHC now UVMMC in many different positions - from working in Central Sterile Supply, Admitting, Pathology, and a nursing aide (during nursing school) in Rehab, I secured a position as a labor & delivery nurse which took up the last 27 years, 14 of those years I was the Operational/Unit Manager - managing 80 staff. The Birthing Center is a 12 bed unit with 2 operating room. And I now find myself working as the Clinic Administrator at The Eye Surgery Center in South Burlington Vermont.

I experienced cataract surgery at The Eye Surgery Center in 2014, and after the second eye surgery I knew I would love to work for The Eye Surgery Center. My career started here in May 2016.

My 1<sup>st</sup> impressions of The Eye Surgery Center as a patient was how efficient it was, how calming the environment was and how dedicated all the staff I came in contact with were. I didn't know that The Eye Surgery Center existed until I was scheduled for cataract surgery there. I had had dental surgery done at 2 different dental surgery facilities around Burlington but this Eye Surgery Center was new to me. I also was excited to know that there are options for our community for when they are in need of eye surgery. I was impressed with the whole surgical experience at The Eye Surgery Center.

When I became employed by The Eye Surgery Center I wasn't quite sure what an Ambulatory Surgery Center was. I began researching and found there are professional organizations dedicated to Ambulatory Surgery Centers such as Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA), Ambulatory Surgical Centers Of America (ASCOA), and over 40 states have the own Association of Ambulatory Surgery Center organizations. What I have learned and what I witness every day is that an Ambulatory Surgery Center is a health care facility which offers patients the opportunity to have specific high quality surgery/ procedures performed outside the typical hospital setting.

The Eye Surgery Center in South Burlington consists of 2 operating rooms, a 6 bay Pre-op/ PACU area and a comfortable waiting room for patient's family or driver. We offer easy free parking, a clean clutter free environment, and an excellent skill team of professionals who are dedicated to patient satisfaction and safety. The Eye Surgery Center provide 27 quality, well-paying jobs (including mine). We also utilize many businesses in

the area who help in keeping The Eye Surgery Center in top operational condition. We annually connect with the South Burlington Fire Department & EMTs to provide The Eye Surgery Center staff with emergency preparedness training.

I am proud to say that The Eye Surgery Center is Joint Commission Certified since 2012. We follow CMS rules and regulations. We recently invited The Vermont Health Department to participate in our Infection Prevention Program as our Infection Prevention Consultants. Their recent visit consisted of 2 staff -RN & MD, both are specialists in Epidemiology from the state health department. They came to The Eye Surgery Center and conducted an ICAR survey - which is an Infection Prevention & Control Assessment Tool for outpatient settings, which The Eye Surgery Center scored very well in. Besides being highly regulated by The Joint Commission, CMS and now the State Health Department, as the administrator I also submit quality measure to the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program through the QualityNet Secure Portal and also through our billing process. The Quality Measures that I report on are dictated by CMS such as patient burns, patient falls, wrong site surgery, patient transfers, safe surgery checklist, and a new reportable quality measure for 2018 are Unplanned Vitrectomies.

The Eye Surgery Center is an established Ambulatory Surgery Center which obtained its CON in 2008 with reporting data responsibilities. The Eye Surgery Center submitted operational data and reports to the state for the first seven years of operation. As I read through this Bill S.278 whose sole purpose is to establish a regulatory framework for ambulatory surgery centers, The Eye Surgery Center is already highly regulated. I believe that if The Eye Surgery Center had to apply for a license to continue to operate today we would meet all the rules and standards adopted by the Vermont Department of Health, by the State Fire Marshal and by the State Board of Health. We are established with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and we operate as a Medicare-certified ambulatory surgery center.

As I continue to read and re-read this bill as proposed, it is asking ambulatory surgery centers in Vermont to report operational data quarterly (actually within 45 days following the close of each calendar quarter) to the Vermont Department of Health and post operational data to an established ambulatory center's website (which The Eye Surgery Center does not currently have). This operational data will take time to collect, analyze and post. All of this data that is collected and all the reporting of this data to the Vermont Department of Health and the Green Mountain Board and then posted on an established Eye Surgery Website sounds overwhelming to me.

My job as the Clinic Administrator here at The Eye Surgery Center currently allows me to continue functioning as a nurse - taking care of patients 30% of my work week time. I also am the HR Specialist, Payroll Specialist, and Billing/Coding Specialist (working closely with our financial company). I work closely with staff on regulatory requirements, inservicing, quality improvement projects and staff education. I strive to provide The Eye Surgery Center's staff and Surgeons with a healthy, fun work environment that is patient & family focused. We all pride ourselves with providing a high quality of care at all times. Adding additional data collection & reporting responsibility will take me away from patient care, which is what I truly became a nurse to do.

I understand that if this bill is passed, there will be a large financial component that The Eye Surgery Centers owners will be responsible for, which might impinge of our owners' ability to provide myself and The Eye Surgery Centers staff a stable place to work. Every staff member here at The Eye Surgery Center counts on their jobs and the benefits that are offered. They work hard; they are proud of what they do, caring for our patient's in need of cataract & eye surgery in an easily accessible ambulatory surgery center.

I also would like to invite all of you to come and tour our facility. I also encourage you to say 'no' to this bill that is being put forth. Thank you all for listening.