



February 28, 2018

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Attn: Chairwoman Sen. Claire Ayer
Room 17
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Via Email: cgilhuly@leg.state.vt.us

RE: Vermont Senate Bill 278—Ambulatory Surgical Center Regulation

Dear Chairwoman Ayer, Vice Chairwoman Lyons, and the esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare,

The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) respectfully submits the following testimony regarding Vermont Senate Bill 278, an act relating to regulation of ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs).

The bill's proposed language at Section 2153(a)(5) states:

“The ambulatory surgical center shall obtain accreditation from the Joint Commission's Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation Program within 18 months after commencing operations and shall maintain the accreditation in order to be eligible for license renewal.”

AAAHC is a private, non-profit accreditation organization, recognized in all 50 states and by several federal agencies for its various accreditation programs, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for its deemed status program for ambulatory surgical centers. As a health care accreditation organization, AAAHC commends your interest in improving the quality of care provided by Vermont ASCs through accreditation. We are concerned, however, that Senate Bill 278 names only one accreditation organization in the accreditation mandate. This requirement will not only restrict the ability of ASCs to choose the accreditation organization that best fits its practice, it will also place the accreditation organizations that are not named at a competitive disadvantage.

As such, AAAHC respectfully requests an amendment to the above section of Senate Bill 278 to include accreditation from any nationally recognized accreditation organization.

5250 Old Orchard Road, SUITE 200
Skokie, Illinois 60077

TEL (847) 853 6060
FAX (847) 853 9028

www.aaahc.org
info@aaahc.org

Again, we commend your interest in improving the quality of care provided by ambulatory surgical facilities in Vermont. If you are in need of any further information regarding AAAHC and its accreditation programs, please contact me directly at 847-324-7703 or acarrera@aaahc.org.

Sincerely,



Ann Carrera, JD
Senior Counsel, Legislative & Corporate Affairs



ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION
for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.