



Vermont State Employees' Association

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February 22, 2018

The Honorable Claire Ayer
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Ayer:

On behalf of the Vermont State Employees' Association, an organization that represents approximately 25,000 consumers of health care in Vermont, we are writing to oppose S. 278. We think this bill will put an undue burden on Ambulatory Surgery Centers in Vermont, such that it would reduce their ability to provide low-cost care to our members and their families.

As good stewards of our members' benefits— with acute awareness of the pressures on health care costs, and with a strong commitment to quality health care for our members— we are convinced that establishing an ambulatory surgery center would provide a lower cost, high quality consumer option for our members. Currently, Vermont is last in the nation in terms of access to non-hospital based alternatives for outpatient surgical procedures. This fact exists despite the trend toward lower cost, high quality surgical centers across the country and in our region. As we look at controlling costs associated with health care, the lack of such options is something that Vermont must begin to change.

VSEA values our community hospitals and understands the important role they play. However, we are convinced that there is room for more outpatient care options in Chittenden County than solely those offered by the University of Vermont Medical Center, and that the benefits of establishing such a center are compelling— both for our members, and for Vermonters more broadly.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to having this option available to our members and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Bellini', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Bellini
President