

Memorandum

To: Senator Claire Ayer, Chair
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
From: Stephen Merena, President
Vermont Podiatric Medical Association
Date: February 21, 2018
Re: S.278 Regulation of ambulatory surgical centers

I am writing on behalf of the Vermont Podiatric Medical Association with regards to S 278.

Specifically, I would like to bring attention to the definition of “physician” set forth in the bill. The current language defines physician as doctor of medicine or osteopathy. We request that podiatrists be included in the definition.

As surgeons of the foot and ankle, podiatrists utilize operating rooms in all hospitals throughout Vermont. Podiatrists are governed by the same rules and regulations as any other surgeon. Each podiatrist is credentialed by the individual facility as to the types of procedures performed. Podiatrists should be able to perform surgeries in ambulatory surgical centers, just as they are in other states and in other facilities in Vermont. Podiatrists will either have admission privileges at a local hospital or have an arrangement where patients can be admitted to the hospital by another physician provider.

We request the following amendment to S.278:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 49 is added to read:
CHAPTER 49. AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS
Subchapter 1. General Provisions
§ 2141. DEFINITIONS
As used in this chapter:

(3) “Physician” means a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 7, 23 or 33

Thank you for your attention to this matter.