

BRIGHTSIDE SURGICAL

401 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Bismarck, ND

701-712-4131

January 31, 2021

To the Honorable Legislators of North Dakota,

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 2334.

Brightside Surgical is an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) located in Bismarck, ND. Our multispecialty physician group and staff provides patient-centered surgical care that focuses on quality, service, and access while ensuring the highest levels of safety. Our center is privately owned, and we have twenty privileged physicians that provide a diverse set of surgical and procedural options to community/region.

We believe Ambulatory surgery centers have clearly provided the residents of North Dakota with quality health care, increased patient satisfaction, decreased cost, and increased choices of where to receive their healthcare. Allowing extended stay centers in North Dakota, under SB 2334, adds a tool for ASCs to expand patient access and options while maintaining the proven record of ASC's for safety, outcomes, and lower costs.

I would respectfully submitted two articles that support our position.

1. ASC – A positive trend in Health Care
2. 2019 Ambulatory Surgery Centers with Extended Stay Centers: Appropriate Procedures and Patient Characteristics

The first article states “With a solid track record of performance in patient satisfaction, safety, quality and cost management, the ASC industry is already embracing the changes that will allow it to continue to play a leading role in raising the standards of performance in the delivery of outpatient surgical services.”

The second article is an executive summary of a bill passed in Oregon that allowed the development of an extended stay centers (ESC). The article demonstrates that this can be done safely and beneficial to the communities.

As a private practice general surgeon for the past 12 years in Bismarck, ND, I have seen the benefits of using an ASC to provide care to my patients. There are numerous examples of scheduling flexibility, decreased cost, high quality outcomes and increased patient satisfaction that I could provide with a firsthand account.

Also, as most physicians know, it is hard to recruit new physicians to ND as well. Possible ownership in an ASC or an ESC is an additional tool that can be used to recruit new physicians to continue to care for our communities.

Thank you for your time and please contact me with any questions,



Brandon Helbling, M.D., FACS, FASMBS

President

Brightside Surgical