

Mr. Parker,

I appreciate the chance to respond to the MHCC's proposals for changes to rules regarding Ambulatory Surgery Centers. As an owner of an ASC in Frederick, I and my partners have worked diligently for many years to uphold high standards of care in providing top notch surgical care to our patients. We have watched the business grow as we have provided more and more services to our patients each month.

We currently have one surgical OR which we are using to full capacity and have always wanted to expand to two rooms. Unfortunately, the red tape and boatloads of cash required to step up to two rooms has prevented us from doing so. The new rules would allow us to make this upgrade with a minimum of inconvenience, and would allow us to essentially double the amount of surgical services we could offer to our patients here in Frederick. To be able to obtain care at an outpatient center is almost always a great benefit to our patients.

I and my partners wholeheartedly agree with your proposals and would very much support their passage. Thank you so much for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Artusio, M.D.

Frederick, Maryland