



**PENNSYLVANIA
OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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September 21, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Brooks
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
168 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Support Senate Bill 818

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION ONLY

Dear Senator Brooks:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), I write in support of Senate Bill 818, introduced by Senator Judy Ward, which would make important updates to modernize the regulation process for Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs).

Senator Ward's bill would negate ASCs needing to go the Department of Health and request an exception each time they want to provide a surgical procedure that is already approved by Medicare's approved procedures list. Medicare already extensively goes through each procedure before it adds them to the list, determining it to not pose a significant safety risk and therefore, can be provided in an ASC setting. The exceptions process represents a duplicative and time-wasting exercise, which could be more aptly used to treat additional patients in the ASC.

POMA supports Senate 818 and asks for your favorable vote in Committee.

Sincerely,

Joseph M.P. Zawisza, DO
POMA President

CC: The Honorable Arthur Haywood, Democratic Chair
Members, Senate Health and Human Services Committee