



March 27, 2018

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States House of Representatives
413 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Rosen:

On behalf of the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA), which represents more than 5,600 Medicare-certified ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) nationwide, I applaud you and your staff for the introduction of H.R. 4783, the *Veterans Deserve Better Act*.

ASCA supports this legislation, as its passage would enable the 22 ASCs in Nevada's third Congressional district and those across the country to continue to deliver efficient, cost-effective community care to veterans.

We are particularly encouraged by H.R. 4783's provision that requires reimbursement claims be paid within 30-45 calendar days. As you know, non-VA providers that offer care through the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) frequently encounter untenable wait times for claims reimbursement. ASCA members, specifically, report reimbursement delays of up to twelve months or more. This alarming trend impedes veterans as they seek the prompt, patient-centered care that ASCs provide.

ASCs proudly provide high-quality surgical and preventive care to veterans. Our members provide orthopedic, endoscopic and pain management – among many other important procedures – for veterans across the country. Most ASCs, however, are small businesses and depend on timely reimbursement to remain viable in a fluid health care environment.

ASCs are committed to providing high quality outpatient care, and the expedited claims reimbursement process outlined in this legislation will support ASCs in serving our veterans.

ASCA is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this critical issue and support your onward legislation. If you have questions, please contact Jeff Evans, Assistant Director of Government Affairs, at jevans@ascassociation.org or 571-385-1688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Prentice", is written above the typed name.

William Prentice
Chief Executive Officer
Ambulatory Surgery Center Association