

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the proposed Ambulatory Surgical Center.

My name is Dr. Jenn Hoffman and I am an orthopedic surgeon at Tufts Medical Center. I am pleased to offer my perspective on this proposed ASC for the benefits I believe this provides to the patients in communities north of Boston; and to share my enthusiasm for a project that builds upon the partnership between Tufts Medical Center, Melrose Wakefield Healthcare and Shields Healthcare. As you know well from your roles in DPH, health care is rapidly changing. As an orthopedic surgeon, I am on the front lines of that change.

Due to incredible advancements in minimally invasive procedure protocols, and an industry wide effort to drive value for patients through lower cost and high quality care, surgeons are performing more procedures in ambulatory settings. ASCs provide patients with the option of having low-risk same day surgeries outside of the hospital setting, within a short distance from where they live. This is particularly valuable for patients currently traveling downtown for their care.

Surgeries performed at ASC's are significantly less costly than surgeries performed in hospitals, which will translate to direct savings for patients in high deductible health plans. Most importantly, research shows that ASCs have an excellent record of safety and quality and provide patient outcomes that equal or exceed the results provided by every other site of outpatient surgical care – including hospitals. .

As a doctor, my first duty is always to my patients, and I believe it is critical to offer patients high quality choices for where they receive their care.