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**DPH Hearing 8/22/18 RE: Melrose Wakefield Healthcare Shields
Healthcare ASC application**

Hello, My name is Malisa Schuyler, I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for Wellforce. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today in support this Ambulatory Surgery Center.

Wellforce is the parent organization of MelroseWakefield Healthcare, Tufts Medical Center and Lowell General Hospital and physician organizations comprised of nearly 3,000 physicians nestled in communities from the New Hampshire border down to Cape Cod.

Wellforce's mission is to relentlessly focus on helping people achieve better health and we are excited about this ASC because it furthers this mission.

One of the tenets of the patient care model across Wellforce is providing integrated, patient-centered care at the right time, at right place for the right intensity while also lowering total medical expense. Our view is that this ASC is another opportunity for Wellforce and its members to deliver on that model, positively impacting patient outcomes and their financial impact, while also helping the state achieve some of its cost and healthcare system transformation goals.

The physician organizations of Wellforce have deep experience in managing risk, participating in value-based contracts and managing the health of populations. We are looking forward to the opportunities to apply the management and services of our population health models with the patient population that will flow through the ASC.

The ASC application is focused not only on the broader community we feel needs to be served and offered this type of a healthcare choice, but it also specifically focuses on the members of our Accountable Care Organizations. Our engagement in ACOs has accomplished amazing things, truly changing the lives of our patients and their families by weaving together critical social services and supports with the clinical care we provide. We have seen the benefits impact of addressing both clinical and social needs and we plan to extend this strategy to our ASC patients too.

The partnership here of MelroseWakefield Healthcare, Shields Healthcare and Tufts Medical Center and leading physicians is unique; it is, we believe, the way healthcare is moving in the future. Partnerships like this help move care away from high cost settings and it are a proven way to bring innovative, high quality, lower cost care to our communities. We look forward to continuing to work with our neighbors, elected officials and community partners to stay relentlessly focused on our mission of helping people achieve better health.
Thank you.