My name is Maureen Connelly, 79 Cliff Ave., Winthrop MA 02152. I am here today to voice my support for the amendment to 243 CMR 3.00 as it relates to informed consent (3.10) under the *Qualified Patient Care Assessment Program*. Informed consent is a fundamental principle of healthcare.

The first time I heard that some surgeons were scheduling two or more procedures simultaneously without patients being aware, I dismissed it as rumor. After carefully reading the comprehensive Boston Globe article, ***Clash in the Name of Care – A Boston Globe Spotlight Team Report***, I could no longer ignore this fact.

Included in the Massachusetts Patient Bill of Rights is the right to:

* Receive timely, complete and accurate information
* Know the name and specialty of those providing care

These rights can only be achieved when a patient is fully informed. Omitting important information, such as who the physician extenders are, their level of training and the role they will play during a procedure is not truthful and jeopardizes the relationship between the patient and all healthcare providers. Equally important for complete and accurate patient records, is having *‘written documentation of the attending physician’s presence or absence during the procedure, intervention or treatment.*’ Providing truthful and complete information lies at the core of being an ethical and moral caregiver.

I have heard the argument that having the Attending Physician/Primary Operator oversee more than one procedure is necessary for teaching the next generation of physicians. I disagree. It is only under the direct supervision of these experienced physicians that skills and techniques are perfected. More concerning is the apparent support and encouragement the practice of concurrent surgeries has received from the highest levels of hospital administration without clearly informing the patients.

As a healthcare provider for more than 40 years, I do not see these proposed amendments as adversarial or cumbersome. I see the amendments for informed consent as an important tool in strengthening the patient/physician relationship, improving health literacy and acknowledging the patient as an equal partner in his/her health care team.

I applaud the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine for recognizing the need to strengthen accountability to the patient and proposing the amendments to the Patient Care Assessment Program – 3.10: Informed Consent and Patient Rights. I trust these changes will produce a more deliberate decision-making process.

March 1, 2017