

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Chair, Assembly Ways and Means Committee
New York State Assembly
LOB 923
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Oppose Part L of A. 3007

Dear Chairperson Farrell and Honorable Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee:

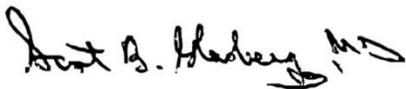
On behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), I am writing to register opposition of Part L of A. 3007, which would have a significant impact on office-based surgery (OBS) as well as surgeon offices that are not OBS facilities. The ASPS was founded in 1931 and represents over 7,000 physicians nationally who are certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

Current law in New York already requires OBS facilities to be accredited by a number of nationally recognized entities that place strict standards of care on office-based practices. These agencies also collect data on the number of procedures and the number of complications that happen in these OBS facilities. Studies completed by the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF) show that there are favorable complication and mortality rates in ambulatory facilities, with one intraoperative death in 478,000 procedures and infection rates of one in every 2,400 procedures, which demonstrates safety and efficacy. With these requirements and requirements to report adverse events to the Department of Health already in place, this proposed legislation is duplicative and unnecessarily burdensome on OBS practices.

Additionally, concerns have been raised that this legislation would task the Public Health and Health Planning Council with determining what procedures are appropriate to be performed and types of anesthesia/sedation utilized in the office-based setting. This proposal threatens the ability of our patients to receive safe and timely care in these often more convenient care delivery sites by potentially moving many surgical procedures back into a more costly hospital setting.

Thank you for considering our concerns with this legislation. The ASPS opposes the unnecessarily burdensome requirements that A. 3007 proposes. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Government Affairs and Advocacy at (847) 228-3326 or phermes@plasticsurgery.org.

Sincerely,



Scot Bradley Glasberg, MD
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons