



March 12, 2024

**RE: HF 4100/SF 4065 Minnesota Debt Fairness**

Dear Chair Klein, Vice Chair Seeberger, Sen. Boldon, and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (MNASCA) is a statewide association representing Minnesota's ASCs in their commitment to delivering high-quality, value-driven surgical services and exceptional patient care. MNASCA appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 4065, and Sen. Boldon's willingness to engage with stakeholders to address concerns with the bill as currently written.

We understand the underlying goals of the proposed legislation to clarify and modernize the debt collection process to better protect consumers. However, the legislation as drafted would make it excessively difficult for ASCs to recover debts for elective medical procedures. Our ASCs prioritize transparency by clearly informing patients about anticipated out-of-pocket expenses for elective surgeries. And if a patient has trouble covering a remaining balance, our centers work with them on a reasonable payment plan to avoid turning the outstanding bill over to a debt collection agency. This legislation would prevent providers from specifying the consequences of nonpayment and restrict who they may use to help recover debt. Significantly changing the debt collection process in these ways could have many unintended consequences for ASCs, including impacting access to elective surgical procedures for everyone.

We urge the committee not to make it even harder for Minnesota's ASCs to recover legitimate debts for elective procedures. We will continue working with the author to address our remaining concerns with the bill to ensure Minnesota's collections process provides proper consumer protections, while balancing the need for these debts to be paid.

Sincerely,

Tracy Mills, President  
Minnesota Ambulatory Surgery Centers Association