



ASCAI AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER
ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 15, 2014

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street – 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project No. 14-025
Winchester Endoscopy, LLC ASTC

Dear Chairwomen Olson and Board Members:

Some may think it unusual when both the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) and the ASC Association of Illinois (ASCAI) agree on something but such was the case with SB 3465 passed into law this year and is the case with regard to the above-referenced project now before the Board. IHA wrote to you on July 31, 2014 to encourage adherence to your current rule, at 77 IL Adm. Code 1110.1540(d), that requires an applicant to establish a new ASTC to document the total number of cases previously performed at existing IDPH-licensed hospitals or ASTCs that will be referred to the proposed project (the to-be-established ASTC).

Our Association fully agrees with the IHA's position that cases cannot and should not come from a less restrictive office-based environment and migrate into a more restrictive licensed ASTC setting.

The applicant, Winchester Endoscopy Center, in its Project No. 14-025 application states that the three physician owners of Northshore Center for Gastroenterology located at 1880 West Winchester Road – Suite 201, Libertyville, IL 60084 have been performing endoscopy procedures in their office setting. They seek a CON Permit to establish a single-specialty ASTC (Winchester Endoscopy Center) at 1870 West Winchester Road – Suite 146, Libertyville, IL 60048 where they propose to transfer over 4,000 procedures now performed in their office.

Our Association is concerned that the proposed Winchester Endoscopy Center may already be in operation at the same location as the proposed new ASTC based on a site visit on September 9, 2014 where staff confirmed that GI Endoscopy cases (at least two that day) were being performed at Winchester Endoscopy Center.

Our Association fully supports P.A. 98-214 that states: *"A person or facility not licensed under this Act [the ASTC Licensing Act] or the Hospital Licensing Act shall not hold itself out to the public as a "surgery center" or as a "center for surgery".*

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Our Association supports ASTC's and the value they bring to the healthcare system. That system requires ASTCs to first obtain a valid CON Permit and maintain a valid IDPH ASTC License in order to function as an ASTC and in order to hold themselves out to the public (such as in person or via websites).

Our Association thinks that it may be appropriate for the Board to first conduct a fact-finding investigation before taking any action on the merits of this application. We believe that IDPH should also be urged to conduct its own investigation into this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,
ASC Association of Illinois



Joseph Ollayos
President



Mark Mayo, CASC
Executive Director

Cc: Illinois Department of Public Health