



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION®

Executive Office

444 East Algonquin Road • Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4664

847-228-9900 • Fax: 847-228-9131 • www.plasticsurgery.org

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

RE: **AB 64 – An Act Relating to: state finances and appropriations, constituting the executive budget of the 2017 legislature**

Dear Governor Walker:

On behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), I am writing to ask you to sign AB 64, which includes the repeal of the assessment on ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs).

Founded in 1931, ASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members and 94 percent of all American Board of Plastic Surgery board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States. ASPS's mission includes ensuring that the health care marketplace allows physician-owned businesses to thrive. Therefore, we fully support legislative measures that repeal the ASC tax.

ASCs offer some of the highest quality and most cost-effective care patients can receive. They provide safe, state of the art treatment at a fraction of the cost of hospital outpatient departments. ASC reimbursement rates are close to 50 percent less than those for outpatient hospital settings. This care quality is achieved despite the overbearing regulatory burdens and increasing costs faced by these centers. Previous experiences in other states have shown that taxing health care does not pay. Repealing the ASC tax will make more affordable health care choices available to Wisconsinites.

Additionally, repealing this tax is an important step in the right direction for Wisconsin to remain as a welcoming marketplace for physicians. A recent poll ranked Wisconsin as the fourth most desirable state to practice medicine,¹ precisely for reasons like repealing this tax. In the shadow of an ever-worsening physician shortage, Wisconsin is taking strong steps toward enacting reforms

¹ Kiernan, John. "2017's Best & Worst States for Doctors." WalletHub.com <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-doctors/11376/>

that encourage physicians to practice and open businesses. We respectfully urge you to support the provision of AB 64 that repeals the assessment on ASCs and sign it into law.

Thank you for your consideration of ASPS's comments regarding the repeal of the ASC assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs, with any questions at phermes@plasticsurgery.org or (847) 228-3331.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Johnson MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debra Johnson, MD
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons