



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®

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THE PLASTIC SURGERY  
FOUNDATION™

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May 2, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**RE: Sign S.B. 732**

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), in support of S.B. 732, legislation that would authorize the Florida Department of Health to regulate both physicians **and** office centers that perform specific liposuction procedures and office-based surgeries. ASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members and 93 percent of all board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States – including 557 board-certified plastic surgeons in Florida. Our mission is to advance quality care for plastic surgery patients and promote public policy that ensures patient safety.

ASPS commends Representative Rodriguez and Senator Flores' efforts to advance legislation that recognizes the urgent need for the regulation of not just physicians, but also the owners and operators of office-based surgery centers in Florida. Over the past few years, patient complications and deaths have increased in the state due to lax regulation of office-based surgery centers.<sup>1</sup> This bill is a critical step toward ensuring all owners, operators, and physicians at office-based surgery centers are held accountable. Each day this measure goes without enactment, Florida's patients are put in immediate jeopardy by reckless surgical practices in the state.

S.B. 732 will ensure that Florida's patients are adequately protected by requiring offices performing Level II or III office surgery, and/or where a physician performs liposuction procedures removing more than 1,000 cc's of supernatant fat to be registered with the Department of Health (DOH). This provision will help ensure that office owners, operators and physicians are all liable for violations of the state's existing standards of care for office-based surgery, which will better protect patients by weeding out unqualified providers and operators. Additionally, we applaud the inclusion of a provision in the bills that would allow the DOH to prohibit individuals who were affiliated with an office where registration was previously revoked from registering another office-based surgery center for 5 years. Given the increased incidents of plastic surgery businesses closing and reopening under new names to hide

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2019/04/22/felons-opened-plastic-surgery-businesses-where-women-died/3501970002/?csp=chrome-push>

adverse events and patient deaths in the state, we believe that this provision is a necessary safeguard to protect patients from misleading and unscrupulous practices.

For the reasons outlined above, we urge you to sign S.B. 732 into law to ensure patient safety in this state. Thank you for your consideration of ASPS's comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes, ASPS's Director of Advocacy and Relations, at [phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:phermes@plasticsurgery.org) or (847) 228-3331 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Matarasso, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alan Matarasso, MD, FACS  
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons