

**ELGIN FAMILY PHYSICIANS, S.C.**

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December 28, 2016

**RECEIVED**

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board  
525 W. Jefferson St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Support for 16-038 - Advocate Sherman Ambulatory Surgery Center, Elgin, Illinois**

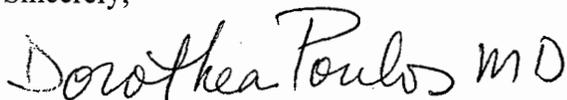
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of the proposed Advocate Sherman Hospital Ambulatory Surgery Center in Elgin, Illinois. I am a primary care physician practicing in Elgin. Over the span of the past 31 years, my practice has been dedicated to caring for the underserved in our community. Many of the patients who I refer to Sherman Hospital need outpatient surgery. I endorse the proposed project for several reasons:

- (1) The lower cost of an ambulatory surgery center is very important to my patients. My patients encounter many challenges in paying for their health care, and it is likely that they will face more challenges in the coming years. A lower cost option for surgery would be very helpful to them. Patients postpone vital procedures for economic reasons, but with an affordable alternative they would be more likely to follow my advice for timely procedures to improve their health.
- (2) The location of the ASC at the hospital provides my patients with the knowledge that the hospital is easily accessible, in case of an unexpected outcome. This security is very important to me and my patients.
- (3) The convenience of an ambulatory surgery center provides my patients with a more streamlined and efficient experience.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for this project.

Sincerely,



Dorothea Poulos, MD



General Surgery, 745 Fletcher Drive, Suite 302 || Elgin, IL 60123 || T 847-695-6600 F 847-695-4279 || [amgdoctors.com](http://amgdoctors.com)

December 28, 2016

**Re: Supporting the Sherman Ambulatory Surgery Center, CON # 16038**

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am Dr. Chirag Dholakia. I am board certified in general surgery and practice in Elgin, near Sherman Hospital.

I am very excited about this project. This project will be great for the physicians and more importantly, wonderful for their patients. I recommend that the Illinois Health Facility Planning Board approve this project.

This facility will allow me to operate in a more comfortable, streamlined operation. An ASTC is not encumbered by the frequent delays caused by emergency and trauma cases which create stress and a less than productive environment in the main hospital surgical suite. An ASTC is staffed with nurses and functions to meet the needs of the lower acuity outpatient. The amount of time a patient typically spends in the ASTC is far less than in a hospital operating room. My healthier surgery outpatients want to be in and out of the facility quickly. The average time for a case in a hospital outpatient surgery department is 50% longer than in an ASTC.

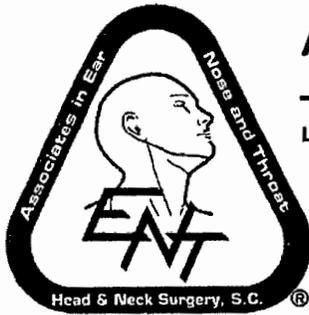
These characteristics of an ASTC are all beneficial to me as well as my patients.

I plan to use this facility for the outpatients that would otherwise be treated in the hospital, causing no adverse impact on other area ASTCs. As I perform surgery on Medicaid recipients, I would also bring my Medicaid patients to the ASTC.

I endorse this important project and hope that the CON board approves this request.

Regards,

Chirag Dholakia, M.D.



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December 28, 2016

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Ms. Olson  
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board  
525 W Jefferson St, Second Floor  
Springfield IL 62761

RE: Support for Project #16-038, Sherman ASC

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am a practicing otolaryngologist (ear, nose and throat surgeon) in Elgin, IL, and I am writing to express my support for CON Project #16-038, the Advocate Sherman Hospital Ambulatory Surgery Center.

This wonderful project will meet the needs of my patients in many ways. Due to the current changes in healthcare and insurance coverage, insurance companies frequently require surgical procedures to be performed in an outpatient surgical center setting to keep costs low.

As you may be well aware, the incidence of postoperative infection is significantly lower in an outpatient surgicenter setting when compared to an inpatient hospital operating room.

This location of the ASC at Sherman Hospital is also ideal for patients and families due to its readily accessible location. Not only is it adjacent to the hospital, but it is easily accessed by the nearby tollway and travel routes familiar to our community.

Thank you for considering all of the above information regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jongwook Ham, MD  
JH/vg