



FEDERATED AMBULATORY SURGERY ASSOCIATION
700 N. FAIRFAX STREET SUITE 306 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
Telephone: (703) 836-8808
Fax: (703) 549-0976

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Contact: Kathy Bryant
703.836.8808
FASA@fasa.org

FASA Strengthens Its Lobbying Team

The Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (FASA) announced today that John McManus, former staff director for the Health Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee will join FASA's team representing ambulatory surgery centers before Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

FASA Executive Director Kathy Bryant explained the decision to hire McManus saying, "We had a good message – ASCs provide excellent care with high patient satisfaction while saving the Medicare program and its beneficiaries money. Despite the great benefits ASCs have to offer, Congress did not hear our message last year. McManus was hired to help us tell our story on the Hill." She adds, "John brings the Capitol Hill perspective, a keen understanding of the process for enacting Medicare changes and he knows all of the major players."

McManus will work on implementation of the new payment system mandated for ASCs in the last Congress as well as helping FASA alleviate the impact of a five-year payment freeze.

Bryant adds, "Congress hadn't paid much attention to ASCs in the last decade, but it is clear that they are paying attention to us now. We need to make sure Congress is familiar with ASCs. After considering many avenues, we determined that adding McManus to our team offered the best approach."

McManus said, "I am excited about the opportunity to help this industry get its message out. Working with FASA, I've learned that there is more to the ASC story than I realized." He adds, "With the challenges facing ASCs, a strong advocate is needed on Capitol Hill."

McManus served as staff director of the Health Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee from 2001 – 2004. He previously served as health legislative assistant for Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA). McManus has a Masters of Public Policy from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts from Washington and Lee University.

In addition to working with McManus, FASA made several other changes in its advocacy program. Two new staff have been hired to add to the in-house expertise. Marie Edler, who has five years experience with ASC reimbursement issues, was hired to strengthen FASA's advocacy with Medicare and private payers. Carter Beck was hired to coordinate FASA's grass roots advocacy program. In addition, FASA will be increasing its use of MARC Associates, a DC-based public policy and lobbying firm with extensive expertise in Medicare issues. FASA's Executive Director Bryant will continue to direct the overall lobbying strategy and Deputy Executive Director Sarah Silberstein will continue to provide data analysis and other policy

expertise in addition to working on state issues. Ahsan Khan will continue to monitor legislative developments.

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FASA is a non-profit association representing the interests of single- and multi-specialty ASCs throughout nation. FASA represents all aspects of the industry including the physicians, nurses, administrative staff, and owners.