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## **STATE LAWMAKERS FOCUS ON AMBULATORY SURGERY ISSUES AT NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

### ***Health Care Highlighted at National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting***

NASHVILLE, TN (August 22, 2006) – FASA, the nation’s largest association of ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), last week addressed a key group of bi-partisan state officials about the important role ASCs play in meeting America’s surgical needs. Consumers are increasingly choosing to have surgery in ASCs that are known to provide high-quality, safe and cost-effective health care.

At the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) annual meeting, which started last Monday, growing concern about cost, access and availability of health care services were at the top of lawmakers’ agenda.

“ASCs offer communities a real solution when it comes to outpatient surgery,” said Kathy Bryant, President of FASA. “ASCs allow communities to save money while providing patients a safe and affordable option for surgery.”

Many procedures that once required an overnight stay just thirty years ago are now being safely performed in ASCs, allowing patients to return home the day of surgery. In fact, today, more than 80 percent of surgeries in America are outpatient and one in five of these procedures take place in an ASC. Last year alone, 14 million outpatient surgeries were performed at ASCs.



*NCSL President Leticia Van de Putte (second from left) greets Milla Jones of United Surgical Partners, Utah Senate Minority Leader Gene Davis, Gregg Stanley of Symbion, Inc., and FASA President Kathy Bryant, at a special ASC reception organized by FASA.*

“As I learn more about the ASC industry and see firsthand the important work they do for patients every day, I am very impressed with the commitment ASCs have to quality care, in addition to offering cost savings,” noted Utah Senate Minority Whip Rep. Gene Davis, co-host of the Wednesday evening ASC briefing.

FASA’s presence at the NCSL meeting is part of a focused education initiative to help policy makers better understand and utilize ASCs in their communities. Savings at ASCs can be significant for both the patient and the government. The copayment for Medicare beneficiaries, for example, is 20 percent of the cost of the procedure at an ASC compared to up to 40 percent at a hospital. For payors, a study released by FASA found that Medicare pays on average \$320 less per surgery when the procedure is performed in an ASC rather than a hospital outpatient department.

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*Senator Gene Davis of Utah, co-host of the dinner, talks with Utah Senators Ed Mayne and Mike Dmitrich. (From left to right) Senator Ed Mayne, wife Karen Mayne, daughter Stephanie Mayne, Bo Dmitrich and husband Senator Mike Dmitrich and Senator Gene Davis.*



*Co-host Senator Diane Black of Tennessee (center) mingles with other briefing participants (from left to right) David Cheek from NeoSpine, Gregg Stanley from Symbion, Inc., Tennessee Senator Steve Southerland and Minnesota Representative Kathy Tingelstad.*

“At a time when most, if not all states are looking at reforming their health care policies and seeking out ways to cut costs, FASA is delighted to have the opportunity to inform key state policy makers about how ASCs are part of the solution to their health care concerns,” added Bryant. “FASA is committed to ensuring that Americans from coast-to-coast have a choice when it comes to surgery and that’s why we’ve expanded our state advocacy efforts this year.”

“I am pleased to be working on this bi-partisan education initiative with the leader of the ASC industry,” said briefing co-host, Tennessee Senator and Vice-Chair of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, Diane Black. “FASA recognizes the importance of working with policy makers, not just on Capitol Hill, but those of us working in states to provide patients with high-quality health care.”

Black of Tennessee joined co-host Davis in welcoming a cross section of legislators from across the country including: Rep. Liston Barfield, Member of Ways and Means Committee of South Carolina; Delegate Bonnie Brown, Health and Human Resources Committee of West Virginia; Rep. Morgan Carroll, Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee of Colorado; Rep. Patricia Dillon, Member of Judiciary Committee of Connecticut; Sen. Mike Dmitrich, Minority Leader of Utah; Rep. Michael Garcia, Assistant House Majority Leader of Colorado; Sen. Toni Harp, Deputy President Pro Tempore, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee of Connecticut; Sen. R. Edward Houck, Member of Education and Health Committee of Virginia; Sen. Ed Mayne, Minority Caucus Manager of Utah; Sen. Steve Southerland, Vice Chair of Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee of Tennessee; Rep. Kathy Tingelstad, Chair of Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee of Minnesota. Also in attendance was Madeline Kriescher, Research Analyst Health Program of NCSL.

The FASA briefing was co-chaired by Symbion, Inc., NeoSpine and United Surgical Partners International. In addition to hosting the briefing for legislators and arranging for the NCSL President to meet with ASC representatives, FASA had a booth in the exhibit hall for the ninth consecutive year.

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FASA, the nation’s largest association of ASCs, is a national, nonprofit association representing the interests of those who operate and seek the services of ambulatory surgery centers throughout the nation. The organization represents almost 2,000 ASCs, the professionals who provide care and services in such ASCs and the patients who seek care there. Visit FASA online at [www.fasa.org](http://www.fasa.org).