Dear [insert lawmaker name]:

I am writing to express my serious concern and **strong opposition** to Governor Tom Wolf’s proposed new tax that penalizes our community-based ambulatory surgery centers, like [insert facility name] in your district. The impact of such a tax would be significant to [insert facility name] and your constituents.

[Insert facility name] annually provides over [insert number] patients with access to convenient, high-quality, cost-effective, community-based outpatient surgical care. Our surgery center is a modern healthcare facility that has transformed the outpatient experience. We have high patient satisfaction, meet high quality and safety standards, and invest in the latest technologies for improving healthcare at lower costs. Procedures most often performed at [insert facility name] include [insert procedures].

Procedures performed in Pennsylvania’s ambulatory surgery centers cost, on average, 50-60 percent less than those performed in hospital outpatient departments. That means [insert facility name] is saving patients, insurers, employers and the Commonwealth millions of dollars through significantly lower procedure costs, co-payments and deductibles. This is a factor that has become increasingly important for patients with high deductible plans.

Beyond providing quality medical care and cost-savings, [insert facility name] also employs [insert number] nurses, surgical technicians and other staff. We are an asset to our community and contribute to our state economy each year.

[Insert facility name] operates as a small business. We already pay multiple taxes, such as income, property and sales and use tax. The governor’s proposal would significantly increase our tax bill.

What is most concerning is that data suggests that nearly 25 percent of Pennsylvania's ambulatory surgery centers will operate at a loss if this tax is enacted. Ambulatory surgery centers will have no other choice than to cut back on investment in replacement technology, cut back on services or close. If the tax is enacted, the result will dramatically decrease patient access to quality, affordable community-based healthcare in your community and Pennsylvania. Healthcare costs will most certainly rise and patients will pay the price. The tax will shift patients currently utilizing ambulatory surgery centers into the more costly hospital setting. Moreover, it could cost many Pennsylvania residents their jobs.

[Insert facility name] should not be penalized for making the Commonwealth’s healthcare system more efficient and medical services more affordable for you and your constituents. **I urge you to oppose the governor’s proposed new tax on [Insert facility name].**

Balancing the state budget by taxing efficient, cost-effective healthcare is counterproductive and will have unintended, negative consequences.