

# TOP FIVE REASONS FOR NC CON REFORM

**Impact.** This is not a minor issue that only impacts a small number of people. Today, 71% of all surgeries are outpatient or same-day surgery. Of those surgeries, too many - 72% - are performed at the highest cost hospital system facilities. Certificate of Need reform would increase the options for patients to have outpatient surgery done at more affordable independent outpatient ASCs.

**Cost.** Patients are paying far too much – sometimes more than double the cost - for many surgical procedures. According to Blue Cross Blue Shield NC, an ACL repair by arthroscopic surgery in the Charlotte area cost \$9,710 at a non-hospital ambulatory surgery center in Concord while the same procedure cost \$29,565 at a hospital-run outpatient facility in Charlotte. A rotator cuff repair in the Raleigh area cost \$9,164 at a non-hospital ambulatory surgery center while it cost \$19,577 at Duke University Hospital. The cost disparities are shocking.

**Higher chance for infection.** Hospitalization increases the chances of infection. Surgeries performed at independent, outpatient ASCs decrease the chance for infection after surgery that has become a problem in many hospitals.

**Competition introduces choice, innovation, better quality.** The Federal Trade Commission staff supports CON reform in North Carolina - stating that “CON laws raise considerable competitive concerns and generally do not appear to achieve their alleged benefits for health care consumers” and says “CON laws can restrict entry and expansion, limit consumer choice, and stifle innovation.”

**Rural counties could suffer.** What happens when rural county hospitals who have associated with big urban hospital systems fall on the chopping block like what happened to the hospital in Belhaven? The local community’s efforts to reopen a hospital have run into an absolute roadblock because of North Carolina’s antiquated CON laws. What if this began to happen all over the state as the big hospital systems decided to eliminate one hospital in favor of another that had a better opportunity to make more money? Current CON laws would prohibit local officials from being able to meet the healthcare needs of their citizens.

**Reform CON Now**

**Lower Healthcare Costs. More Choice. Better Quality.**