

Hi, my name is Howard Schulman, MD. I've been a general internist/adult primary care physician in Rhode Island since 1995.

I am very much in **support** of **bill H 8364**, giving the Superior Courts the ability to liquidate mismanaged hospitals, but **I have a strong additional suggestion**. I would like the purview of the bill to include outpatient surgicenters and procedure centers.

Over the past 10 years, the great majority of orthopedic surgeries and colonoscopies and many other essential medical procedures have moved from being performed in the hospitals to outpatient, non-hospital-owned centers.

I would like the Committee to understand that these outpatient centers are frequently just as important to the whole healthcare system as the hospitals. Frequently, these procedures are the most lucrative aspects of medicine. As these centers are now the target of acquisition by private equity firms, I think it would be wise to include them.

The OrthoRI surgicenter in Warwick recently sold for \$36 million to investors, is a perfect example.

Sincerely,
Howard Schulman, MD