



**HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**January 30, 2019**

**HB 693 – Relative to Aid to Persons Funded by Medicaid and for Persons Who Are Uninsured and Establishing a Special Fund**

**Testimony**

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan, VP, State Government Relations with the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA), representing all 26 of the state's community hospitals as well as all specialty hospitals.

The NHHA is neutral on HB 693, however, I do want to provide some clarification regarding how hospitals are impacted by this bill. While we appreciate the sponsor's efforts to ensure more providers are accepting Medicaid as a payment method and treating more un-insured individuals, we are unclear on the approach taken with this bill and what the regulatory oversight challenges may be for the providers and the department of health and human services.

Hospitals in NH accept all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. This is part of their charitable mission and a requirement under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). Furthermore, all physician practices that are owned and managed by hospitals follow the same policy. Consequently, we believe, if HB 693 were to pass, it would not have any substantive direct impact on the hospitals.

For these reasons, NHHA is not taking a position on HB 693. It is important, however, to clarify that hospitals do treat all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. I am happy to answer any questions.