



House Health and Human Services Committee

January 22, 2020

HB1246

Bill Title: AN ACT relative to reporting of health care associated infections.

Testimony

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Anne Diefendorf and I am the Associate Executive Director of the Foundation for Healthy Communities, VP of Patient Safety & Quality.

I am here to testify in support of HB 1246. We continue to see advances in patient safety and quality, that can out pace established measures of performance. Adherence to central line insertion practices (CLIP) and surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis are two examples of this. Both are considered “process” measures which are ideal when new practices are established to ensure adherence. They become insignificant when those practices become embedded into the culture of daily care and clinical performance. Adherence to CLIP was noted to be 98.3% in the 2018 Healthcare Associated Infection report. Surgical antimicrobial practices, as part of the surgical care improvement project (SCIP) was retired in 2017 as a measure by CMS as it was “topped out” due to consistently high performance.

Rigorous surveillance of infections attributed to central lines and surgical site infections continues, as more important “outcome” measures. Ongoing monitoring of any infections would identify lapses in processes, should they occur. In addition, other priority areas such as antibiotic stewardship continue to focus on aspects of these measures or are captured in other required reporting.

I urge you to support HB 1246. I am happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.