



HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 5, 2020

HB 1332 – Relative to An Electronic Prescription Drug Program

Testimony

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan, Senior Vice President 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 supportive of HB 1332. There is a similar bill to HB 1332 that has been filed in the Senate, SB 547, sponsored by Senator Morgan. We asked the Senate to consider HB 1332 language when they review that bill because HB 1332, as introduced, contains language that was vetted by a stakeholder group, including NHHA, over the past several months. HB 1332 represents the collective voice of both prescribers and dispensers. It appears that both SB 547 and HB 1332 started with similar national language, but HB 1332, includes the final recommendations by the stakeholder group. For example, HB 1332 includes fewer options for exclusions from electronic prescribing, includes a limited time waiver process and will include rulemaking provisions for licensing boards and a specific effective date (through a proposed amendment by Representative Merchant).

I want to make it clear to this committee that the hospitals in New Hampshire are supportive of requiring electronic prescribing for controlled substances. The reasons for moving to electronic prescribing for controlled substances are compelling, including:

- Enhances the safety and quality of the prescribing process
- Reduces prescription drug errors
- Supports clinical decision making
- Notifies clinicians of allergies, drug interactions, duplicate medications and other clinical alerts
- Monitors how many controlled prescriptions a patient has received
- Enhances communication between prescribers and dispensers
- Reduces theft and increases security

In fact, many hospitals have already implemented electronic prescribing for controlled substances. Several others are in the midst of their implementation and the rest have plans for implementation within the next year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. We ask that a discussion regarding the two bills, SB 547 and HB 1332, takes place to ensure that they are identical. I am happy to answer any questions.