



HOUSE LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 5, 2020

**HB 1386 – Relative to Employment Protection for Qualified Patients of New Hampshire’s
Therapeutic Cannabis Program**

Testimony

Good morning, Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan, Senior 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 opposed to HB 1386, as introduced. This bill is similar to another bill this committee heard a couple of weeks ago, *HB 1543, relative to employee drug testing* and our reasons for opposing this bill are the same as that bill. Hospitals must follow all state and federal laws related to employment. Hospitals have strict employment policies regarding drug testing and passing such tests prior to being hired. Also, some hospitals require periodic drug testing and failing a drug test is a cause for termination. Because cannabis is considered an illegal drug at the federal level, hospitals must adhere to the federal law, due to their Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) license. A violation of this law would put their DEA license in jeopardy.

If the committee chooses to move forward with this legislation, we ask that hospitals be exempted from the requirement outlined in the bill.

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