



HOUSE LABOR, INDUSTRIAL, AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 31, 2018

HB 1508

Relative to Wage Compensation Under Workers' Compensation

Testimony

Good morning, Mr. Chairman 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 of our specialty hospitals.

While the NHHA is not weighing in on the indemnity rate sections of the bill we do have concerns with one specific section of HB 1508. I thank the sponsor for discussing our concerns with me regarding this section and his willingness to consider amending the bill to address them. Specifically, we are concerned with Paragraph 5, Workers' Compensation; Medical Payment Schedules.

VI. The commissioner shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to establishing a medical payment schedule which shall require medical payments at the rate of 150 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate.

The NHHA does not support any type of workers' compensation provider fee schedule. This issue has been debated in this committee in years past. The last time the legislature took up the issue of mandating a fee schedule for provider's reimbursement under workers' compensation was in 2015. The result of that debate was a compromise among all parties that modified the labor statute relative to how reimbursement disputes among the parties are resolved. The new law is working as intended. More importantly, the workers' compensation rates for employers have gone down consistently for the last six years (see attached press release from the NH Department of Insurance). We do not believe there is a need to impose a fee schedule on providers that treat injured workers and we ask if the committee decides to move forward with this bill, that the section related to Medical Payment Schedules be removed.

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