



## HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 13, 2020

### HB 1639 – Relative to “In and Out Medical Assistance”

#### Testimony

Good morning, 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 1639. This bill is very important to ensuring that individuals that are in need of health care can access it via Medicaid eligibility. Our hospitals in New Hampshire report that there are many individuals that they assist monthly in compiling all their needed documents to file for their spenddown. The limit is so low that these individuals are constantly going “in and out” of Medical Assistance. It is my understanding that the current protected income limits are \$591 and \$675 for households of one and two. Passing this bill will update these limits substantially (from \$591 to \$901 and \$675 to \$1,075, according to the fiscal note compiled by the Department of Health and Human Services) for the first time in over 30 years. We also understand that New Hampshire “spenddown” income limits are some of the lowest in the country.

Hospitals have encountered many patients that do not fill their prescriptions or seek needed care due to their not meeting the spenddown or just not having the means to compile all the documents needed to submit to the Medicaid office. One hospital reported that the majority of their financial assistance patients are on the “in and out” program.

We encourage you to vote HB 1639 “ought to pass” so that the New Hampshire residents in need of health care services can readily qualify for Medicaid.

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