



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

January 23, 2020

HB 1673 – Relative to the Definition of “Public Body” Under the Right-to-Know Law

Testimony

Good morning, Madam Chair 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 1673, as introduced. Non-for-profit hospitals in New Hampshire would be impacted by the legislation, if passed, as they receive Medicaid reimbursement, which we believe would qualify under the language of the bill. This proposal would add significant administrative burden to hospitals. Hospitals are already highly regulated by the state. This proposal adds additional oversight and we are struggling to understand why this additional oversight is necessary. Furthermore, we do not understand why participating in the Medicaid program would essentially convert the hospital to a governmental entity, which would be the effect of this bill, if passed.

For these reasons, NHHA is opposed to HB 1673 and we ask the committee to find the bill inexpedient to legislate.

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