



## HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 5, 2020

### HB 1697-FN – Relative to Prescription Drug Discount Prohibition

#### Testimony

Good afternoon, Mr. 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 1697-FN. While we appreciate the sponsor's intent to address the high cost of prescription drugs and their impact on health care premiums, we believe, overall, there is a negative unintended consequence of this bill which outweighs the intended goals of the legislation. We also appreciate the sponsors considering the concerns we and other stakeholders raised last session when a similar bill, HB 717 was introduced. However, the overall concern remains; prohibiting the use of drug manufacturer coupons or discounts is not in the best interest of our most vulnerable patients because it will limit their access to drugs that they would otherwise not be able to afford.

For instance, there are many individuals that utilize coupons for drugs that have a generic equivalent. However, due to the structure of a patient's insurance plan, their high deductibles and copayments make the generic drug still extremely expensive and unaffordable without the use of coupons. A good example would be insulin for diabetes.

It is our position that this issue deserves further research and study, therefore our recommendation is to incorporate the suggestions outlined in this bill into the existing *HB 656, study commission, which is charged with studying the impact of financial initiatives for individuals by drug manufacturers on prescription drug prices and health insurance premiums.* The commission has met a number of times and will continue its work through November 2020. In fact, there is a specific reference in the final version of HB 656 that explicitly states "the committee shall prioritize studying drug copay coupons..."

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