



HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

January 22, 2019

**HB 463 - Relative to Voluntary Licensure of Pharmacist Assistants
Testimony**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, Executive Vice President of the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA), and I am here representing all 26 of our state's community hospitals as well as all specialty hospitals.

NHHA is neutral on HB 463. The main reason our hospitals are neutral is that there is very little specificity to the scope of the newly licensed position of Pharmacist Assistant contemplated in the bill before you, consequently we are unsure of the necessity of this position. We are not opposed to the Board of Pharmacy creating such a position but based on the feedback we have received from hospital pharmacy directors, there is not enough detail or experience elsewhere in the country to demonstrate how much impact this new position would have on licensed pharmacists' duties.

The scope of practice and the responsibilities that fall to pharmacists are significant and are taken very seriously by those who practice this profession. They are held to strict education, testing, certification and work requirements with the ultimate focus and responsibility being to the health and safety of the patients they serve. As outlined in the bill, the requirements for the pharmacy assistant's scope of practice would be dictated through rulemaking. If this bill were to pass, the hospital pharmacy directors would welcome the opportunity to weigh in on the potential scope of practice for this new licensed level.

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