



SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

April 23, 2019

HB 481 – Relative to The Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis and Making Appropriations Therefor

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 opposes HB 481. The NHHA Board of Trustees recently adopted a policy regarding the legalization and commercialization of recreational marijuana.

NHHA POLICY STATEMENT:

New Hampshire hospitals have always been at the forefront of promoting public health. The question of whether our state should legalize and commercialize marijuana for recreational use poses a direct threat to the public health and safety of our patients and communities and raises significant concerns for health care organizations.

Until such time as 1) sufficient research, to include scientific, epidemiologic and other evidence on the net benefits and harms of legalization of cannabis and cannabis products is clear and is determined to be favorable or neutral in terms of impact on public health and safety; 2) regulatory systems are adequately and sustainably prepared to safely guide product approval and availability with adequate safeguards to protect from commercialization targeting use by children; and 3) an effective system for collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant public health and safety data is in place to determine the impact of legalization and to guide revisions in policy and regulation in support of public health and safety, NHHA will be opposed to the commercialization and legalization of marijuana.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. We oppose HB 481 and ask that you find this bill inexpedient to legislate. I am happy to answer any questions.