



## HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 5, 2019

### **HB 717 – Prohibiting Prescription Drug Manufacturers from Offering Coupons or Discounts to Cover Insurance Copayments or Deductibles**

#### **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 717. While we appreciate the sponsor's intent to address the high cost of prescription drugs and their impact of health care premiums, we believe, overall, there is a negative unintended consequence of this bill which outweighs the intended goals of the legislation. 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.

This issue deserves further research and study, so our recommendation is to incorporate this bill into HB 656, which establishes a commission to study the impact of financial initiatives for individuals by drug manufacturers on prescription drug prices and health insurance premiums. I believe this committee will be acting on HB 656 this week.

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