



HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 24, 2019

SB 177 – Relative to Clarifying When Physical Restraints May be Used to Transport a Person Being Admitted to New Hampshire Hospital or a Designated Receiving Facility

Testimony

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan, Senior VP, State Government Relations for 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 supports SB 177, as amended by the Senate. We believe there is a shared goal among all stakeholders in doing what is best for the patient in supporting high quality, safe patient care while at the same time creating a safe environment for everyone involved.

Deciding on the use of restraints for individuals that have been certified as involuntary emergency admissions (IEA) is a difficult situation. When an individual has been certified as an IEA, it is because the individual was deemed to be a danger to himself or herself or to others, thus creating a question about safety.

This bill is focused on the very narrow situation of when a patient is being transferred from a hospital emergency department to New Hampshire Hospital (NHH) or a designated receiving facility (DRF). SB 177 updates state law to allow for transport by either law enforcement or by ambulance and allows the transporting entity to make a determination of use of restraints. The bill also requires specific data reporting by NHH or DRFs to better understand the use of restraints in our state.

SB 177, as amended by the Senate, was carefully crafted by many stakeholders. We urge you to vote to pass SB 177.

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