



House Education Committee

April 3, 2018

SB 357 - Relative to Safe School Zones

Testimony

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan and I am the Vice President of State Government Relations at the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA), representing all 26 of the state's community hospitals as well as all of our specialty hospitals. Joining me today is Peter Wright, President & Chief Executive Officer of Valley Regional Healthcare in Claremont, NH.

The New Hampshire Hospital Association supports SB 357, as amended by the Senate. Our interest in the bill is related to the language added regarding to the Syringe Service Program (SSP) on lines 20-22. As you know, the Syringe Service Program (SSP) was established when SB 234 was passed in 2017. There is currently a prohibition in the Needle Exchange Program law that prohibits a SSP from being located within a drug-free school zone as defined in RSA 193-B:1, II. The bill before you today address our concerns.

Mr. Wright is joining me today to share with you his experience in Claremont when they attempted to start the first SSP in NH last summer at Valley Regional Hospital.

I appreciate the opportunity to share our comments with you and we urge you to vote the bill Ought to Pass. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.