



**Senate Health and Human Services Committee**

**January 18, 2018**

**SB 552 -** Relative to transportation of trauma victims by first responders

**Testimony**

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

The New Hampshire Hospital Association is opposed to SB 552. We recognize the concerns and circumstances raised by the sponsor of the bill, but we don't believe that new processes outlined in the bill will result in improvements in patient care and patient safety.

I personally have been involved in working with the NH Bureau of EMS for many years, representing our member hospitals, including as a founding member of the Trauma Medical Review Committee and still serve in that role. Hospitals and EMS providers work hand-in-hand in providing high quality health care both in the field and in the emergency departments.

Statewide clinical protocols for EMS providers are created based on national evidenced based standards. EMS providers all have a medical resource hospital and medical director that works with them to determine the best facility for patient transport, depending on the severity and specific needs of the patient. All clinical decisions are made in the best interest of patient care and patient safety.

We have several concerns with SB 552:

- Interferes with EMS providers' ability to make patient care decisions in the field
- Could delay patient care transport if EMS provider needs to explain state law, describe patient condition and pros and cons of alternative destinations and obtain signatures on forms.
- Clinical decisions between EMS provider and medical resource hospital will be compromised

We urge the committee to carefully weigh these concerns when discussing the direction of this bill. I appreciate the opportunity to share our comments with you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.