



HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 24, 2019

SB 97 – relative to special health care services licenses and establishing a committee to study providing certain health care services while ensuring increased access to affordable health care in rural areas of the state.

Testimony

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Steve Ahnen, president of 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 is in support of SB 97 and we appreciate Senator Bradley for his leadership in sponsoring this bill. The bill was amended on the Senate floor, to address concerns raised by those opposing the original bill.

The bill before you today does three things:

- 1) it ensures that the regulations that are promulgated for Special Health Care Services (SHCS) ensure the highest quality for Cardiac Catheterization, Open Heart Surgery and Megavoltage Radiation Therapy. By removing the word "**minimum**" it allows for accreditation and personnel requirements for all SHCS programs; and
- 2) it ensures that the regulations that are promulgated for SHCS apply to all providers; and
- 3) is establishes a committee to study providing certain health care services while ensuring increased access to affordable health care services in rural areas of the state.

None of the remaining provisions were considered controversial and the bill passed the Senate on a voice vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide our comments on this important legislation. I would be happy to respond to any questions or comments you might have.