



SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 12, 2019

SB 117 – Relative to Certain Procedures Performed in Teaching Hospitals

Testimony

Good afternoon, 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 SB 117 for several reasons. It is unclear to us why the bill was even introduced. The exact same bill was introduced in the House. I did speak with the sponsor of HB 422. In talking with him, it was evident that there are no incidents in NH that prompted him to introduce that bill. The bill was heard earlier this session and was voted Inexpedient to Legislate by the committee in mid-February and by the full House late last month.

As with HB 422, this bill, SB 117, poses many questions for us, including:

- If the bill were to pass, how would compliance be measured?
- Are there any instances where consent has not obtained? It is current standard medical practice for physicians and surgeons to obtain consent from patients prior to care being rendered, regardless of the health care setting. So, we are unclear what issue the bill is trying to address.
- Why does the bill title reference only teaching hospitals? The bill title references "teaching hospitals" but the bill language is not focused on only teaching hospitals. We believe the way it is currently written that it could impact all physicians and surgeons.

If this bill were to pass, it would result in essentially our legislature governing medical care. This committee has historically rejected many past proposals that would have interfered with the physician/patient relationship, and we applaud that history.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. For the reasons I have outlined above, we request that you find this bill Inexpedient to Legislate. I am happy to answer any questions.