



SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 14, 2020

SB 466- Relative to the Patient's Bill of Rights

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 neutral on SB 466 but we do have some questions relative to the bill.

In reviewing the language of SB 466 with our members, some questions arose.

- Under Section 1. X., lines 5-7, relative to the transfer of information to law enforcement:
 - How would this proposed statute change interact with the various criminal code statutes?
 - Would the phrase "under any circumstances" mean that no information could be released to law enforcement? For instance, would this extend to blood alcohol test results?
 - There are circumstances when law enforcement is called to a hospital to take custody of illegal substances. How would this language change impact that situation when a hospital calls them in for assistance?
 - There are also circumstances when law enforcement must be called to the hospital in the event of an assault. Again, how would this language change impact that situation when evidence and interviews must occur?

If this bill were to pass, it could potentially result in many more requests for court orders, which could impede the ability of the hospitals to provide time-sensitive information to law enforcement, when necessary.

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