



SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 14, 2020

SB 467 – 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 467 for several reasons. The exact same bill was introduced in 2019 in both the House and in the Senate. I understand the concerns of the sponsor, from previous conversations. However, as we explained last year, there are no incidents in NH that prompted this bill to be introduced, to our knowledge. The House bill from 2019, HB 422, was heard early in the session last year and was voted Inexpedient to Legislate by the House HHS committee and ultimately by the full House in late February 2019.

SB 467, poses many questions for us, including:

- If the bill were to pass, how would compliance be measured?
- Are there any instances where consent was 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, with the way it is currently written, that this legislation 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 and 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.