



Senate Health and Human Services Committee

February 6, 2018

**SB 486- Establishing a Commission to Study Enhancing The
Prescription Drug Donation Program**

Testimony

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan and I am the Vice President of State Government Relations at 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 not taking a position on SB 486 however we do have some information to share with you regarding drug donation programs and have a request to amend the bill.

The Foundation for Healthy Communities (FHC), an affiliate of the New Hampshire Hospital Association, was instrumental in establishing the NH Med Bank program, back in 2012. The pilot program was a joint project of SeaCare Health Services and the FHC. The pilot was funded by a grant from the Endowment for Health. The program collected unused, unexpired medications from pharmaceutical companies and healthcare facilities in NH and dispensed them to residents unable to afford their medications. After the pilot ended there was a brief hiatus and then the program was reopened in December 2015. The newly formed Med Bank program was a joint collaboration of three organizations; Manchester Community Health Center, Catholic Medical Center (CMC) and FHC.

The program was recently discontinued, due to a number of factors. The major obstacles the organizations faced included difficulty in procuring donations of medications, meeting requirements of non-profit drug distributors, and long term financial sustainability.

While the NH Med Bank was a visionary program at its inception, the environment has changed and the program administrators reluctantly made the difficult decision to discontinue the program. The FHC was a proud partner of the Med Bank program for a number of years. However, the FHC is no longer able to provide the management support it previously offered. While the FHC and NHHA would be happy to attend commission meetings and offer any expertise needed we do ask that you remove NHHA from the list of commission members in SB 486, as introduced.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments with you and appreciate your consideration of our request that you remove the hospital association from the members of the commission, if you chose to proceed with the bill before you today. With me today is Peter Ames, Executive Director, Foundation for Healthy Communities. Peter and I are happy to answer any questions you may have.