



SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 14, 2020

SB 506 - Establishing a Commission to Study Workplace Safety in Health Care Settings

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 supports SB 506 and we are very appreciative of Senator Gray's willingness to sponsor this bill as well as all the co-sponsors.

We, along with other provider organizations, asked that this commission be established to address the on-going concerns our health care workers face every day while caring for patients. The incidences of violence against health care workers in NH hospitals and other health care facilities continues and, while individual facilities and providers have implemented various policies and strategies to address this growing concern, we believe a more comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach is warranted. It should not be the expectation that a nurse, aide, physician or other caregiver will be verbally or physically harmed while doing their job caring for others.

We look forward to working with all the members of the commission to consider what opportunities exist to ensure that our health care workers are safe and protected when they go to work every day.

We ask that you support this bill so we can begin to work with all stakeholders and the legislature to address this very important issue.

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