



SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 16, 2018

SB 550

Relative to Drop In or Walk In Clinics

Testimony

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Paula Minnehan, VP, State Government Relations with the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA), representing all 26 of the state's community hospitals as well as all of our specialty hospitals.

The NHHA is opposed to SB 550. Hospitals in NH own and operate many urgent care centers throughout the state. All the centers owned/operated by hospitals are currently licensed under Facilities Licensing, as Non-emergency Walk-In Care Centers. It is unclear to us what the bill before you is trying to accomplish. Is the intent to exempt retail clinics from requiring licensure? While we may not have many of those entities in our state today, that is likely to change in the near future. This bill would allow those entities to operate without a facility license, which we do not believe is appropriate. Furthermore, we are concerned with how this exemption to the current law would be understood and communicated to the public. There are many clinical and safety requirements that a health care facility, including non-emergency walk-in care centers, must adhere to, in the interest of public safety. While these requirements are important, we do not believe they are overly burdensome or difficult for a properly staffed and equipped facility to meet.

For these reasons, we do not support SB 550 and ask that you find it inexpedient to legislate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and suggestions. I'd be happy to answer any questions.