



HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 23, 2019

SB 58 - Relative to Reimbursement Rates for Low-dose Mammography

Testimony

Good morning, Mr. 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 of our specialty hospitals.

The New Hampshire Hospital Association supports SB 58 and we want to thank the sponsor for filing this legislation.

SB 189 was passed last year which clarified that: "***Low-dose mammography***" shall also include ***3-D tomosynthesis mammography***.

Unfortunately, the interpretation of the state law has not been consistent across all carriers. The providers continue to encounter resistance from some health insurance companies to reimburse at ***rates that accurately reflecting the resource costs specific to each modality, including any increased cost of breast tomosynthesis***. Consequently, we determined that SB 58 was needed to ensure that the intent of the law is being consistently followed by all carriers.

It is NHHA's position that utilizing the 3-D technology is saving the health care system money because the technology is much more effective in identifying cancers and reducing false positives. A false positive mammogram could result in a tremendous amount of anxiety for the patient and her family. The protocol followed when a false positive result is identified could result in repeat mammograms, ultrasounds, breast biopsies, breast MRIs and a lumpectomy; all conducted to rule out or determine the extent of the potential cancer. These costs are significant and completely avoidable.

NHHA strongly supports SB 58 and urges the committee to pass the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.