



## SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 18, 2020

### SB 676 – Relative to Controlled Drug Prescription Health & Safety Program

#### Testimony

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, Executive Vice President 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 supportive of SB 676, as amended. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is an essential tool for practitioners, defined as both prescribers and dispensers, to understand a patient's medication history which can assist them with proper treatments and prescriptions. We believe that the changes put forward through SB 676 will only enhance a practitioner's ability to utilize this crucial information for patient care and safety. Our testimony will focus on the following sections in our testimony since there are others here to speak to the other sections of the bill.

#### Amendment 0671s, page 1, lines 20-29

Section 4 of the bill is enabling legislation that will allow the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (office) to enter into agreements or contracts with health care entities to allow practitioners to query and retrieve PDMP (program) information and to save it as part of a patient's electronic medical record (EMR). It will be up to the health care entity to ensure that only authorized users have access to program information.

Attached is a schematic that shows what happens today under a manual query and retrieval process and what an integration process would look like should SB 676, as amended, pass. It will save practitioners a lot of time and effort in this entire process if there was an ability to utilize technology resources to create efficiencies in workflows, which will ultimately lead to better patient care.

I would also like to emphasize that an integrated system between EMRs and the PDMP doesn't mean that a practitioner would have access to more detailed program information. In fact, the integrated system and the current manual system would produce the same information, nothing more.

#### SB 676, as introduced, page 3, lines 1-4

Through our discussions with the sponsor and other interested parties in the development of SBS 676, it was noted that there should be an opportunity for the patient to know that the

PDMP could be utilized as part of the practitioner's process to review a patient's medication history. We researched several other states' methods for patient notification and assisted the sponsor with the language in Section 5 of the bill, as introduced. We believe that this language, consistent with other states' that we reviewed, would provide proper notice to the patient.

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