



## SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

January 21, 2020

### SB 685 - Relative to Establishing a Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program

#### 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 is neutral on SB 685 but we do have some questions relative to the bill. While we certainly support the goal of the bill, to access lower cost drugs for the citizens of New Hampshire, we do have concerns about how to ensure that the prescription drugs coming in from Canada meet the same high quality standards that drugs available in the United States must adhere to.

In reviewing the language of SB 685 with our members, some questions arose.

- Many of our hospitals (most of our Critical Access Hospitals and several of our larger hospitals) participate in the federal 340B program. This program is critical to ensuring access to expensive pharmaceuticals for the residents of the state of New Hampshire. We are requesting that language be included in the bill to ensure that the 340B program will not be impacted if this bill were to pass and be signed into law.
- We find it of interest that, while the Board of Pharmacy governs all other medication-related regulatory oversight, the department of health and human services would be overseeing this program. Our concern is one of ensuring the appropriate skill set and resources are allocated to provide the needed oversight of this very important function.
- We have questions about patients that live outside of NH. How will the prohibition (Section II.(f)) be managed/enforced?
- Under Section 126-BB:3, VI. Requirements of the Program (Page 2, line 19), what will the "price" of prescription drugs reference? Will it be Average Wholesale Price (AWP), Cash price and what currency? Canadian with exchange rate included?

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