



April 10, 2024

Representative Wayne MacDonald, Chairman  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 205-207  
33 N. State Street Concord, NH 03301

RE: [SB 403](#) relative to health care workforce investments

Dear Chairman MacDonald and Members of the House Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs Committee:

My name is Gregory White, and I am the Co-Chief Executive Officer of Lamprey Health Care (Lamprey), a federally qualified health center (FQHC) with sites in Nashua, Newmarket, and Raymond, as well as a mobile health unit and several integrated care locations across the community. Our FQHC serves as a medical home to over 15,000 people from over 40 communities across southeastern New Hampshire. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide input today on SB 403, which proposes sensible, timely investments in New Hampshire's primary care workforce and protects access to primary care for Granite Staters.

Health care workforce shortages in New Hampshire have been growing at a concerning pace for years and now extend across both clinical and non-clinical positions. At Lamprey, our vacant FTE positions include Registered Nurses, Family Practice Physicians, Family Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Behavioral Health Clinicians, and Medical Assistants. It is critical that we invest in policies in 2024 to help retain our current staff – who we cannot afford to lose – and broaden the pipeline for the future workforce.

The purpose of SB 403 is to create more opportunities for individuals to work in health care. This includes funding to support Community Health Workers (CHWs), who are a critical component of integrated primary care. CHWs assist patients with accessing services they need to improve their overall health and quality of life, including heating, mortgage assistance, health insurance, transportation, food, and childcare. Lamprey Health Care and many health care organizations across the state that employ CHWs rely on intermittent grant funding to support this invaluable workforce. Voluntary certification of CHWs included in SB 403 is a decisive step to providing much-needed financial security for this workforce and will allow our health care organizations to seek Medicaid and commercial reimbursement for the services they provide.

We are proud of the work we do at Lamprey Health Care and grateful for our team who deliver this care to the community. Our ability to continue to do this work, with the availability, efficiency, and quality outcomes, is directly tied to the recruitment and retention of our dedicated staff. It is imperative that we have the resources to keep our caregivers in place. Our ability to pay these professionals, in the face of a very tight labor market and in competition with larger health systems, is severely constrained.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my support for SB 403. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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