



NNECOS Member Alert

NNECOS Opposes New Hampshire House Bill 1642-FN

NNECOS has become aware of a troubling legislative initiative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives that impacts cancer care in our region. New Hampshire House Bill 1642-FN proposes ***exemption for a "destination cancer hospital" from regulatory oversight and from supporting uncompensated care or Medicaid services.*** The significantly flawed rationale behind this legislation appears to be that investment in cancer care beds, equipment and services in New Hampshire should be permitted without regulation if you are a destination cancer center. Proponents of this legislation have not considered the likely consequences of this legislation. This legislative exception to the CON process that currently governs existing facilities would serve to ***disrupt the existing infrastructure of oncology care in the region and create financial stress to both hospitals and physician practices, reducing the availability of cancer treatment services to all NH citizens across the socioeconomic spectrum.***

NNECOS has issued a letter to NH legislators stating our opposition to this bill.

NNECOS believes that:

- 1) There is **NO Demonstrated need** for a higher level of cancer care in our region.
- 2) CTCA has not demonstrated that it provide services not available in our region already.
- 3) Destination cancer centers (such as CTCA) **DO NOT** provide new care not locally available.
- 4) Existing care in our area **IS** comprehensive and caring.
- 5) Our region **HAS** facilities that provide protocol and treatment programs for advanced stages of cancer.

As your regional oncology society dedicated to assuring the availability of and access to high quality cancer care in our region, we have grave concerns that such an exception would ***undermine the careful and collaborative cancer care model that has been fostered by the existing cancer care providers in our region.*** As you know, cancer care professionals of Northern New England have sought for decades to provide high quality, low cost and high value cancer care close to home. A destination cancer center does not publicly support the goals that are endorsed by NNECOS, by our parent organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, or by any other nationally recognized cancer care organizations, and any proposal to provide special treatment to an out of state provider disregards the years of dedicated service our existing cancer care providers have committed to our region for many years.

The public hearing on this bill is schedule for Tuesday, February 7th at 10:30am in Concord, NH. If you would like to be contacted by a member of NNECOS leadership to discuss how you might play a role in expressing your concerns for this proposal, please email info@nnecos.org or call Executive Director Lori Aubrey at 603.887.1948 for more information.

RESOURCES

Read the pending NH legislation, [HB 1642-FN](#).

Read the [Cancer Treatment Centers of America](#) promotional literature.

Read the [February 2, 2012 Concord Monitor Editorial](#) on this issue.