



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



April 14, 2023

To my constituents in Allenstown, Dunbarton, Epsom, & Hooksett,

This week, my committee continued hearing Senate bills. SB 71, expanding to *all* cancers those assumed to be work related for firefighters, also creates a study commission to consider how to implement cancer screening for firefighters. We heard a lot about toxin exposure on the job – it seems the Nomex suits which keep them from burning up contain PFAS. One purpose of the study committee is to look into which cancers are probably job related, which begs the question of why the definition is expanded before the study was complete. There was a silly error in the bill, which created the study and repealed it on the same day! It went to subcommittee – this issue appeared to be more suitable for the Labor committee, which deals with workers' compensation.

SB 72, about provider credentialing, would give insurance companies no more than 90 days to process a simple change of status for a provider (new address, change of ownership for someone who is already in the network.) We heard of cases taking six months, also cases that required continual prodding to get any action; the committee's reaction was to ask if, say, a week wasn't long enough! The insurance department testified that they do enforce time limits such as this one, but tend to emphasize the issues that get the most complaints. We immediately voted to pass the bill and told the insurance department to add 18 more complaints to this issue (two members were missing today...)

SB 106, establishing an emerging professional certificate for child care workers, was also a poorly

written bill. After extensive questioning, I *think* it creates an alternative pathway to the lowest level certification: a two year program in CTE (career and technical) high school, rather than 750 hours of on the job training. We asked for a definition of the various licensure levels in child care, and the requirements for each (this should be in statute but it's not easy to find) and sent the bill to subcommittee.

Three subcommittees met Thursday. The one I was on dealt with two bills. For SB 203, on the manufacturing housing board, I brought in an amendment to delete the revision to the board and just keep the website available for five years, since we had testimony that the website contained valuable data on board decisions. We couldn't just kill the bill because the House position (in HB2) is that the board is repealed, so the amendment kept the data available.

SB 147, on the dental board, was discussed at some length. We agreed with the administrative changes – adding a dentist with anesthesia experience to the board, creating a facility license to eliminate redundant inspections, creating an anesthesia subcommittee for technical decision making – but agreed to delete the specific revisions to the use of anesthesia with children. Primarily this is because the Senate HHS committee has retained a bill on that exact topic, but also because it's not our area of expertise. We discussed the options for waivers of the requirement for a second professional when sedating children, and agreed with the auditors that a blanket waiver for all oral surgeons was not appropriate – but leaving the board the option of waiving this requirement in specific cases or for certain people was reasonable. So the subcommittee is working on an amendment to get this agreement into words, and we'll finish



Your State House Concord, New Hampshire



up another day.

My committee has only three Senate bills left to hear, so next week has been left open for the subcommittees to meet.



Carol McGuire

Representative Carol McGuire
carol@mcguire4house.com
782-4918