



**North Country Home
Health & Hospice Agency**



January 8, 2018

Senator Jeb Bradley, Chairman
Senate Health & Human Services Committee
State House
Concord, NH

Re: NH SB 334 - Relative to Temporary Licensure of Allied Health Professionals from Nearby States

Dear Senator Bradley,

North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency services approximately 480 patients per day in upper Grafton County and all of Coos County - many of these requiring services from allied health professionals - physical, occupational and speech therapists. Also, at present, 99% of these allied health professionals employed by the Agency are contracted through temporary agencies or independent contractors due to the difficulty in recruiting full time staff therapists. As a result, the Agency spends hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in additional labor costs due to outsourced company fees.

North Country Home Health and Hospice Agency borders the states of Vermont and Maine. SB 334 would make it less burdensome for therapists to get licensure in New Hampshire to service patients within our territory. Providing outstanding patient care at the lowest possible cost is our primary mission.

On behalf of the entire Agency, I thank you for your consideration and urge your support in passing this crucial piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Counter
President

Cc: Warren West, CEO - North Country Healthcare, Inc.
Gina Balkus, CEO - Homecare Association of New Hampshire