SB 426: Relative to the Commission on Primary Care Workforce Issues

History/Context:
The Commission on Primary Care Workforce Issues was established by the New Hampshire back in 2010. The health care environment has changed since the Commission was established. There is more focus on team based care and more emphasis placed on the importance of integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care. Consequently SB 426 adds two professionals to the Commission. One is a nurse with experience in primary care, appointed by the New Hampshire Nurses Association and the other is a representative of the substance use disorder treatment community, appointed by the New Hampshire Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Association.

SB 426 also requires a report from the Commission in November of 2018 that focuses on workforce data collection by the licensing boards as well as an update on the State Loan Repayment Program. In addition, SB 426 requires a legislative renewal of the Commission in 2020 instead of 2019. (Prepared by Laurie Harding, MSN, RN)

NHNA’s Commission on Government Affairs is in favor of the passage of SB 426.

Joan Widmer, Nurse Executive Director, and Laurie Harding, former NH State Rep and Ex Officio member of the Commission on Government Affairs, testified in support of this bill at a public hearing held on February 20, 2018.

On March 8, 2018 this bill failed to pass in the Senate (12:11).