SB 421: AN ACT Relative to Insurance Coverage for Prescription Contraceptives

History/Context:
Historically oral and other hormonal contraceptives prescribed by a provider have been available on a month-by-month basis, even though the prescription has been written by the provider for a 12-month period. The insurance restrictions have been imposed under utilization review that limits quantity to a by-month basis, necessitating that the women return to pharmacy each month for her supply. This is viewed within the provider community as a limiting factor to contraceptive access and a potential contributor to contraceptive failure.

Senate Bill 421 was developed separate from but as a companion to House Bill 1822-FN (An Act making hormonal contraceptives available directly from pharmacists by means of a standing order). In the Final Report of the Commission studying and developing House Bill 1822-FN, there is statement of the Commission endorsement of LSR 2018-2993, which is now SB 421. Senate Bill 421 states that an insurer shall not impose utilization review requirements or other limitations to control of the prescribed or dispensing of contraceptives to an amount less than a 12-month supply, if that quantity is prescribed. (Prepared by Sara Kellogg-Meade, MS, RN)

NHNA’s Commission on Government Affairs is in favor of the passage of SB 421.

Sara Kellogg-Meade, Commission on Government Affairs, testified in support of this bill at a public hearing held on February 20, 2018.

Article on this bill in the March 2, 2018 issue of the Concord Monitor and NHNA is referenced. Here is a link to this article: http://www.concordmonitor.com/Bill-proposed-to-allow-12-month-prescriptions-of-contraceptives-15716999

On March 14, 2018 the Senate Committee on Commerce voted this bill ought to pass.

On March 21, 2018, this bill passed in the Senate (22:1). Senator Guida was only opposed vote and Senator Cavanaugh was absent. The bill now moves to the House.

This bill moved to the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs on March 27, 2018.

A public hearing of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 10:00 am in LOB 302.

Sara Kellogg Meade testified in support of this bill at a public hearing of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs on April 11, 2018.

A work session of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs is scheduled for April 24, 2018 at 10:00 am in LOB 302.
A last minute amendment was submitted by a group of insurance companies at the recent work session of the Senate Commerce Committee. On April 24, 2018 the Senate Commerce Committee voted this bill ought to pass with amendment (14:2). Here is a link to this amendment #2018-1753h. Thanks to Sara Kellogg Meade for her tireless support on this bill and HB 1822.

On May 2, 2018 this bill passed in the House with amendment (219:211).

On May 10, 2018, the Senate voted to concur with House amendment on this bill (see amendment here: #2018-1753h).

On July 5, 2018, Governor Sununu signed this bill into law, Chaptered Law 0361.