

# Senate Health and Human Services Committee

*Kyle Baker 271-2609*

**SB 161**, establishing a commission to evaluate the direct care workforce and preparedness of long-term care and support services for aging adults with dementia or other cognitive brain injuries.

**Hearing Date:** March 20, 2017

**Time Opened:** 10:00 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:15 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Bradley, Avard, Gray and Hennessey

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Fuller Clark

**Bill Analysis:** This bill establishes a commission to evaluate the direct care workforce and preparedness of long-term care and support services for aging adults with dementia or other cognitive brain injuries.

**Sponsors:**

Sen. Feltes

Sen. Carson

Sen. Soucy

Rep. LeBrun

Rep. Wall

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**Who supports the bill:** Sen. Dan Feltes, Prime Sponsor; Heather Carroll, Visiting Angel; Doug McNutt; Sen. Sharon Carson; Henry Veilleux, Leading Age ME+NH; Paula Minnehan, NHHA; Maureen Leitis; Brendan Williams, NHHCA

**Who opposes the bill:** None

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Feltes – Prime Sponsor**

- This bill would create a commission to evaluate the direct care workforce of long-term care and support services for aging adults with cognitive brain injuries.
- Our state has a growing elderly population and the legislature has continued to pass legislation to address this. This bill would help provide the information needed to keep making good steps forward.
- There is an amendment prepared to make sure that all of the stakeholders that wanted to be part of the commission are represented.

**Heather Carroll – Alzheimer Association**

- Need to make sure we are supporting our caregivers that work with patients with dementia and Alzheimer's.
- The need is increasing at a rapid pace and we need to make sure there are enough caregivers.
- This disease manifests differently for every patient and there is a lot of training needed.
- This commission would allow all of the experts to get together to find solutions to some of the workforce issues we are dealing with.
- Small caregiver businesses are spending large amounts of money on advertising for employment and are still not able to find the qualified people to work.

**Henry Veilleux – Leading Age NH, Maine**

- In full support of the legislation and the amendment.
- Big issues for our organization and this commission will allow all of the parties to get together to come up with the best solutions.

**Maureen Leitis**

- Her mother lived in an assisted living facility and it was hard to get an understanding with the staff on end of life care.
- There needs to be more training especially in the end of life care and this committee would allow those discussions to continue.

**Brendan Williams – NH Healthcare Association**

- Supports the bill but would recommend a change.
- Would recommend that the representative of the long term care industry to be appointed by the NH Healthcare Association rather than by the Governor.
- This change would make the appointment similar to the other industries represented in the bill.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None

**Neutral Information Presented:** None

**Future Action:** Ought to Pass with Amendment