

ANAMASS Legislative Agenda
2019-2021

- 1. HB2664/SB701-** An Act relative to the governance of the Health Policy Commission
Sponsors: Rep. Kay Khan (D) & Sen. Jason Lewis (D)
Summary
Amends current statute to include registered nurse with demonstrated expertise in the development and utilization of innovative treatments for patient care and shall be appointed for a term of five years.
Original Statute: [CLICK HERE](#)
Bill Text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)
Status: [ANAMASS presented verbal and written testimony 5/28/2019](#). Amended
- 2. HB1941/SB1345-** An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and professional nursing practice
Sponsors: Rep. Kay Khan(D) & Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)
Summary
Adds new Section 219 to GL 6 establishing ; 17 member Commission on nurse staffing in hospitals to review and make recommendations regarding best nurse staffing practices designed to improve the patient care environment, quality outcomes, and nurse satisfaction; locates the Commission within, but not subject to the control of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; articulates the qualifications and terms of Commission members; identifies several areas of examination for the Commission relative to nurse staffing levels; requires the Commission to file an annual report with the Legislature by March 1.
Bill Text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [01/18/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)
Status: Referred to [Joint Committee on Public Health](#); hearing held on 09/23/2019. **Testimony (Written and Verbal) provided by ANAMASS**
- 3. Preventing Workplace Violence**
[H.1976/S.1093](#) [An Act requiring health care facilities to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence](#)
Sponsors: Rep. Michael Moran (D) & Sen. Jason Lewis (D)
[H.1416/S.1427](#) [An Act requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence](#)
Sponsors: Rep. Denise Garlic (D), Rep. Kimberly Ferguson (R) & Sen. Joan Lovely (D)
It is our duty in the Commonwealth to ensure that nurses and healthcare workers are protected. We cannot afford to lose exceptional nurses and healthcare workers who have been affected by violence and are hesitant to come to work, afraid of what could happen to them on any given day. 67% of all nonfatal workplace violence injuries occur in healthcare, but healthcare represents only 11.5% of the U.S. workforce.¹ The American Nurses Association Massachusetts appeals to healthcare institutions to foster a change in culture and adopt a zero-tolerance policy to workplace violence. Perhaps only then will barriers to reporting be lifted and tolerance to the situations be mitigated. Maintaining safe work environments is the duty of nursing leadership

¹ As cited in Locke, Bromley, Federspiel (2018, May). Patient Violence, It's Not All in a Day's Work. *American Nurse Today*.
<https://www.americannursetoday.com/patient-violence/>

and hospital administrators, however, strong and sound legislation is necessary to bring attention to this matter.

Status: Referred to the committee on [Public Health](#); **Hearing held 07/09/2019; ANAMASS presented written testimony.** Referred to [Joint Committee on Public Health](#); hearing held on 10/17/19; **ANAMASS previously presented written testimony; Referred to the** Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security:

4. HB1578/SB838: An Act strengthening the penalty for assault or assault and battery on an emergency medical technician ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or health care provider

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Tucker & Sen. Michael Brady

Summary: Bill increases penalty to include imprisonment in a state prison up to five years and strikes out "treating or transporting" to make more universal i.e. not just during those times

Bill text: [1/22/19](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [The Judiciary](#); hearing held on 4/30/19. **ANAMASS presented written testimony.**

5. **HB1944/SB103: An Act relative to nurse licensure compact in Massachusetts

Sponsors: Rep. Kay Kahn (D) & Sen. Joseph Boncore (D)

Summary: Increase public access to safe nursing care, provide for the rapid deployment of qualified nurses in response to a state of emergency, address the emerging practice of nursing through telecommunications technology, support spouses of relocating military members, and build effective interstate communication on licensure and enforcement issues

Bill text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status : Referred to the committee on [Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](#); hearing held 5/13/19. **Testimony (Written and Verbal) provided by ANAMASS;** Discharged to the committee on [Health Care Financing](#); hearing held on 10/8/18; **Testimony (Written and Verbal) provided by ANAMASS;**

****Now included in H. 4134 An Act to improve health care by investing in VALUE** (Governor Baker's Bill). Public Hearing scheduled for 1/28/2020 at press time.

6. **HB1867: An Act to support access, value and equity in health care (SAVE Act)

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Donato (D) Co-sponsor Kay Khan (D)

Summary: Amends sections of GL c.94c (Controlled Substances) and GL c.112 (Registration of Certain Professions and Occupations) to expand the authority of nurse practitioners to dispense, administer or conduct research on controlled substances by removing the requirement that they do so under the supervision of a physician; gives the Board of Registration in Nursing the sole authority for regulating the practice of nurse practitioners by removing the requirement that the board of registration in medicine concur; removes certain restrictive time limitations on writing prescriptions by nurse practitioners; updates the Nurse Practice Act to reflect that nurse practitioners are authorized not only to order tests and therapeutics, but also to interpret them.

Bill text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Public Health](#); hearing held on 09/23/2019. **Testimony (Written and Verbal) provided by ANAMASS**

**[Now included in H. 4134 An Act to improve health care by investing in VALUE](#) (Governor Baker's Bill). Public Hearing scheduled for 1/28/2020 at press time.

7. HB3487/SB1213: An Act relative to safe patient handling in certain health facilities

Sponsors: Rep. Claire Cronin & Sen. Harriet Chandler

Summary: Amends GL c.111 (Public Health) by adding new provisions that regulate the lifting of patients in both acute care and long-term care facilities. In particular, the bill defines a lift team as health care facility employees specially trained to handle patient lifts, transfers and repositioning using lifting equipment when appropriate and precluded from performing other duties, and establishes 35 pounds as the maximum recommended weight lift limit established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The bill further requires each health care facility to establish a safe patient handling committee to design and recommend the process for implementing a safe patient handling program. By December 30, 2020, health care facilities must complete the acquisition of safe patient handling equipment. In addition, the development of architectural plans for constructing or remodeling a health care facility or a unit of a health care facility must incorporate patient handling equipment and the construction design needed to accommodate such equipment.

Bill Text: [01/18/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Public Health](#); **Testimony (Written) provided by ANAMASS; Met with Senator Chandler in November to review ANA Standards for Interprofessional Safe Patient Handling and Mobility and elimination of manual lifting.**

8. SB683 - An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts

Sponsor: Sen. James Eldridge(D)

Summary: This substantial bill establishes a new chapter 175L, the Massachusetts Health Care Trust, in the General Laws, which would create a single-payer system for health care in Massachusetts. The bill establishes a Massachusetts Health Care Trust, which will be the single-payer body responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds required to provide health care services for every resident of the Commonwealth.

Bill text: [01/19/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Health Care Financing](#); Hearing held on 6/11/2019;

ANAMASS Health Policy Forum held on 10/1/2019 at the State House Great Hall. Introduction to day by Senator Cindy Friedman, Chair of Health Care Financing and greetings from Representative Kay Khan RN. Intro to topic by Senator Jamie Eldridge Chris Schrauf and Barbara Blakeney; panel moderated by Barbara Blakeney and includes economist [Jonathan Gruber](#) (MIT), and [Nancy Turnbull](#), currently Harvard School of public health and former first deputy commissioner of insurance in Massachusetts.

9. SB589 - An Act relative to limits on insurers' retroactive clawbacks for mental health and substance use disorder services

Sponsor: Sen. Cindy Friedman (D)

Summary: Establishes a new GL 111:237 - 237C, regulating the use and coverage of step therapy protocols in medical treatment; defines step therapy protocols as a specific sequence in which prescription drugs for a specified medical condition and which are medically appropriate for a particular patient are provided; establishes and regulates the membership of a special commission to study and assess the implementation of step therapy process reforms; requires submission of findings and recommendations within 9 months; regulates the evaluation of step therapy protocols, and requires use clinical data to determine their effectiveness; requires insurance companies which restrict the use of a particular drug included in step therapy to establish a clear readily accessible and convenient process to request a step therapy exception; requires insurance companies and MassHealth to grant the exception in the listed circumstances, including when the required drug is known to be contraindicated with other drugs in the protocol or when the patient has tried and failed on the required drug.

Bill text: [01/21/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to committee on [Financial Services](#) hearing held on 5/7/2019; reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Health care financing committee recommended ought to pass and was referred to the committee on [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#); **ANAMASS provided [written testimony as part of the Mental health coalition](#)**

10. HB1902/SB1279: An Act regulating flavored tobacco products

Sponsor: Sen. John F. Keenan (D) and Representative Danielle W. Gregoire (D)

Summary:

Bill Text: As filed

Status: **Passed 11/27/19 as [An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control](#) amended chapter 33 to include** prohibits the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco product or tobacco product flavor enhancer to any consumer, except in a smoking bar. Tobacco product includes electronic nicotine delivery systems. Also includes a 75% excise tax on nicotine vaping products.

11. Cadet Nurses –Massachusetts Bills

S.2178 An Act relative to the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)

Summary:

Amends Chapter 6 of the general laws to add a new section “The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting the apart the 1st day of July as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day” in perpetuity.

The amendment to include permission for installation of a bronze plaque for Nurses Hall is now on the House version in its “third reading”.

Bill Text: [As Filed](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Veterans and Federal Affairs](#); Hearing held on 05/16/2019; reported favorably and referred to [Senate Rules.](#); passed in the Senate; Referred to the House and third reading ordered 8/19/19.

The State House Art Commission is reviewing the final format. We are cautiously optimistic that passage is pending!

12. S.997/HR 2056 - United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) Rep. Cheri Bustos (D)

Summary:

Amends GI Bill to recognize that service in the US Cadet Nurse Service Corps between 7/1/1943 and 12/31/1948 constituted active military service and those who served receive honorary veteran status including only burial benefits (headstone) and medals or other commendations.

Status: The final NDAA National Defense Authorization Act passed WITHOUT the WWII Cadet Nurse bill amendment. Although there are other options being considered, it is now being advocated for as a stand-alone bill. This means we must get more cosponsors, particularly in the Senate. Here in Massachusetts there is 100% support from both Senators and all 9 of our Representatives in the U.S. House. Given that the WHO has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, it is hoped that this can help get our bill passed to finally honor WWII Cadet Nurses. The bill continues to have the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Nurses Association and 61 other organizations of the Nursing Community Coalition. Please take the time to thank Senator Elizabeth Warren who is the sponsor and champion of our bill as well as Senator Markey and your Congressperson. Let them know that honoring WWII Cadet Nurses is important to you! If you have friends and family in other states, ask for their help in getting cosponsors. Let's make 2020 the year of the WWII Cadet Nurse!

Please follow on **Facebook: Friends of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps WWII**

Or <https://www.nursingandpublichealth.org/cadet-nurses.html>

updated 1/19/20 CAT