

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Sophie Walsh 271-3469

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Time Opened: 11:19 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:25 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Rochefort, Avard, Birdsell, Prentiss and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill renews the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.

Sponsors:

Rep. Nagel

Rep. H. Howard

Rep. Lundgren

Rep. Miles

Rep. Roy

Rep. Tellez

Rep. Woods

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Watters

Who supports the bill: 76 people signed in support of the bill. Full sign in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Sophie Walsh (sophie.walsh@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative David Nagel, Belknap – District 6

- Representative Nagel explained that this study committee is attempting to create something that has never existed nationwide.
- Representative Nagel referenced written testimony detailing the study committee's mission and work. The committee spent it's first year exploring the landscape of creating a community-based integrative pain care practice.
- An ad hoc group has been established to create a pilot program for this initiative.
- The study committee has defined what they want to study and who they want involved. They chose a Federally Qualified Health Center, as they already have

integrative services on site and have the ability to collect data and file grants. They hope to utilize both rural and urban locations.

- Senator Rochefort asked if the study committee will be able to complete their work by 2027, and Representative Nagel said they would not be able to. He emphasized that the ad hoc group will take on the pilot program and noted that he has struggled with whether this study committee needs to exist after this year. He posed this to both the study committee and the ad hoc group, and both voted unanimously that they need the study committee.
- Representative Nagel said this will probably be the last time he asks for this, but the pilot program will likely be a 5-year project.
- Senator Rochefort asked if the date should be moved to 2028 instead of 2027, and Representative Nagel said that would be great.

Representative Janet Lucas, Grafton – District 7

- Representative Lucas shared that her OB/GYN practice had a similar pilot program exploring the use of physical therapy to treat chronic pelvic pain.
- There is a great need covering a wide span of concerns regarding chronic pain and New Hampshire would be fortunate to have this program continue.