

March 26, 2025

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing in support of the bill H6088, foot care nursing. My name is Barbara Beckmann, I live in Tiverton, RI, but work for an agency in the mental health field in neighboring Fall River, who serves many people from Rhode Island as well.

As a mental health professional, I am seeing the effects of poor self-care every day, which often includes neglected foot care. Many times, this neglect leads to isolation, hospitalization and potential death. Aging people, who I consider myself part of, have increasing health issues and need specialized support and care, often connected with a financial burden. Foot care provided at the home by trained professionals such as foot care nurses, can not only improve quality of life and independence, but can also prolong and safe lives by identifying larger problems often associated with poor foot care.

Allowing certified foot care specialists at-home foot care can save lives and be a financial win for the State, by avoiding un-necessary hospitalizations or expensive nursing home care. In addition, considering the growing shortages in the medical field, including doctors, expanding the number of professionals in the field by including foot care specialists can only be a win for the citizens of Rhode Island and the State.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Beckmann, LICSW