

March 25, 2025

To whom it concerns:

It has come to my attention that there is a bill (H6088) that's been put forth to allow certified foot care, specialists and nurses to go into the home of an elderly person who is not able to care for their own feet, and perform foot care services—from simple nail clippings to general foot health.

This may sound trivial, but as a volunteer legal guardian for the aging poor, I can testify to the incredible need. I've stepped in to care for seniors whose toenails had gotten so long that their shoes don't fit them anymore or they have foot pain because of the pressure from their toenails. I have had an aging family member who had a cyst that went undetected and out of control and eventually infected. Each time, I have had to call a podiatrist, wait for an appointment and transport aging adults with mobility challenges, all to take care of very simple problems.

Because it is easy to go unnoticed since their feet are largely covered in socks, slippers, or shoes, what could've been addressed with basic foot health hygiene/care, turns into a more difficult problem that can even effect mobility—something that is so critical to their overall health.

I've also worked in the senior living industry at the executive level, and the problem was such an issue in our communities that it would frequently get raised all the way up to the executive suite. Family members simply don't do it, don't know it needs to be done, or don't have the time given all the other pressing needs when caring for their aging loved ones. I should know, I cared for both parents, living with dementia in the same home.

Your support for this bill would be so appreciated by families and caregivers across the state!

With hope and confidence,

Leigh Anne Cappello
21 Hampden Street
Barrington, RI
401-573-6463