

Testimony in Support of H 6088
Town of Barrington Senior Services Advisory Board

To the Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives:

The Barrington Senior Services Advisory Board has voted to express its fervent support for H 6088. The provision of routine at home foot care, especially for older adults, is an area of immense need in our State. And to go without this basic care is dehumanizing for many older adults who are not able to go to a podiatrist's office due to health or mobility issues. Barriers to the provision of at home basic foot care need to be broken down and that is exactly what this bill would do. This bill would allow certified nurses to perform certain foot care services at home including nail clipping, a need which is not being adequately met by podiatrists in Rhode Island. Nor is it being provided by other practitioners due to concern with being seen to be participating in the unauthorized practice of podiatry. The at home foot care by certified nurses permitted by this bill would be limited to routine foot care with any more detailed or demanding issues being referred to a podiatrist. This seems to be a more than fair compromise to plug this gaping hole in the provision of basic medical services in Rhode Island which has a particularly detrimental effect on older adults. We encourage the Rhode Island House of Representatives to support Rhode Island seniors by voting to support this bill.

Sincerely,

The Town of Barrington Senior Services Advisory Board