

Steven Sepe

From: Aaron <drshemenski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:28 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Opposition RI 6088

Representative Donovan,

As a longtime Rhode Island resident and a podiatrist who is board certified in forefoot and reconstructive rear foot/ankle surgery, I am adamantly opposed to RI6088.

RI 6088 - Permits a certified foot care nurse or a certified foot care specialist, to provide certain at-home foot care, including routine foot and nail care including nail clipping.

The complexity of treating the diabetic foot should not be understated. As a result of this acknowledgment, we have made a significant investment in the training of podiatrists. I personally have completed four years of undergraduate education, four years of podiatric medical school, and a three year surgical residency.

I have dedicated my career to diabetic limb salvage, and feel that this legislation, will be a significant setback with respect to patient outcomes. We will likely see a rise in complications, such as infections and amputations.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that codifying nurses' scope of practice to overlap with podiatrists in will lead to worse patient outcomes and create a threat to public safety, as nurses do not have the extensive training to treat at-risk diabetic foot and ankle concerns in the same manner as podiatrists.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J Shemenski DPM FACFAS