

Good Afternoon, Representatives....

My name is Catherine Benoit and I am an APRN (Nurse Practitioner) living in Westerly. I am writing to you today in support of bill H6088 which allows a certified foot care nurse or a certified foot care specialist to provide certain at-home foot care services, including routine foot and nail care (clipping and sanding).

Please note that I am an APRN (Nurse Practitioner) who is licensed in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine. I have been in practice as an RN since 1982, as an APRN since 2000 and as a Certified Foot Care Specialist since 2023. While my permanent address is in Westerly, I have been living and working part-time in Bangor, Maine since 2020. While practicing at Beacon Hospice in Bangor, I encountered a homebound patient who was a retired physician in the community. He was 107 years old and was cared for by his 76 year old daughter. His need for foot/nail care became immediately apparent upon his admission and I set out calling all local podiatrists within a 25 mile radius of this man's home. None of these providers had the time or the interest in making a home visit, however, one podiatrist provided me with the contact information of a local RN who was a Certified Foot Care Specialist and had a small business providing in-home medically based foot care. I contacted this RN, arranged foot care for my patient (was extremely satisfied with the experience and the result) and ultimately, with her guidance, became Foot Care Certified myself in 2023. I was fortunate to be precepted by a local Podiatrist during my training period. He was extremely supportive of my plans for independent practice and I continue to refer patients to him on a regular basis who present with foot care issues that are beyond my scope of practice.

Since my certification, I have been providing Foot Care to Beacon Hospice patients in the greater Bangor area as well as to homeless individuals at The Brick Church Warming Center in Bangor. In addition, during my time in Westerly, I continue to see residents of Mystic-Noank Congregate Senior Housing in Noank, Connecticut on a bimonthly basis to provide home based foot care. All of this care has been provided without incident or complication. As an APRN, I have many years of experience in Home Care and am pleased to have added Foot Care to the skills I bring to patients.

I am planning to return to Westerly full time in January 2026. It had been my hope to connect with a small number of individuals in the Westerly community who are in need of home based foot care services. In addition, I hope to continue pro bono work with the homeless population, possibly at the Warm Shelter in Westerly. I have personally witnessed the positive impact of the care I have provided to a population that would otherwise go unserved. I look forward to sharing my experience through in-person supportive testimony as this bill progresses through the legislature.

Please contact me if there is any other way I can be of support of bill H6088.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Benoit, APRN (Nurse Practitioner) CFCS (Certified Foot Care Specialist)
Mobile # 508-789-9665