

March 23, 2025

House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Committee meeting, March 27, 2025

Attn: Committee Clerk, Rhode Island Legislature

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Dorian Meyette and I live in Pawtucket. I am writing to you today on behalf of my parents, Joseph and Ann Borges who live in East Providence. More specifically, I write to ask for your careful consideration and approval of bill H6088, which is a bill that 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.

My father is a disabled Vietnam Veteran, and my mother is his primary caregiver. Due to his various disabilities, my father is eligible for, and receives, in-home primary care from the Veterans Administration. Despite the VA recognizing the extent of his disability and his being eligible for this level of care, there are no foot care specialists who are able to provide this service to my father in his home unless this committee approves this bill. He is physically unable to travel to the VA, or any other medical facility to receive this care, which means that this service has not been provided to him in quite a long time which has had significant health consequences.

While the average person might not be concerned with something as seemingly frivolous as getting their nails clipped, people with severe disabilities, including those with diabetes and mobility impairments, need to have their nails clipped and feet cared for by a professional who has the proper training, and to not have access to this care can result in dire consequences (Ju et al., 2024<sup>1</sup>; Lopez-Bushnell, et al, 2021<sup>2</sup>). Please consider this bill on behalf of the many Rhode Islanders who are home-bound and need this type of medical care.

Sincerely,



Dorian M. Meyette

Cc: Jennifer Boylan

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<sup>1</sup> Hsiao-Hui Ju et al., "Enhancing Foot Care Education and Support Strategies in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes: A Qualitative Study," *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners* 36, no. 6 (February 8, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1097/jxx.0000000000000998>.

<sup>2</sup> Frances K. Lopez-Bushnell APRN and Sarah M. Haquani BA, "Foot Care Nurses: Improve Outcomes for Diabetic Patients," *Nursing & Primary Care* 5, no. 3 (June 30, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.33425/2639-9474.1179>.