

Steven Sepe

From: Joseph Domenico <jkdomenico@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 1:25 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 6088

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Sponsors: Boylan, Cotter, Fogarty, Hopkins, Stewart, Potter, McGaw, Carson, Speakman, Spears
Title: *An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions — Podiatrists*

Dear Representative Donovan,

This bill would permit a *certified foot care nurse* or *certified foot care specialist* to provide certain at-home foot care, including routine foot and nail care such as nail clipping.

This legislation poses serious concerns for patient safety and the integrity of podiatric medical practice in Rhode Island. While the intention may be to expand access to care, allowing non-physician providers to perform services that may mask or miss underlying conditions—especially in vulnerable populations like diabetics—as we deem at risk care - could result in harmful consequences.

The podiatrist is the expert evaluator in these instances and an initial assessment is of paramount importance. For instance, a patient who is found to have acute limb ischemia can be caused more harm just by trimming nails and calluses if this diagnosis is overlooked. This could cause a major liability issue. First, do no harm.

The bill was just brought to our attention last week. At no point did anyone reach out to the podiatric society as a whole. We do have a number of podiatrists that do perform house visits for this type of care. I would like the time to be able to gauge our entire membership on availability for this type of care but also would love to work with the legislators and nurses on potential mutually agreeable solutions in the future to get these homebound patients the care they deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Domenico, DPM

President, RIPMA

