

March 26, 2025

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is William A. Sterrett and I live in Tiverton, Rhode Island. I am the former pastor of Amicable Church UCC at Tiverton Four Corners and currently part-time pastor of Edgewood Congregational Church UCC in Cranston. I am writing in support of the bill H6088, which allows 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 toenail clipping.

I support this bill because I know more and more people are home-bound, unwilling to leave their home or unable to afford living in assisted living or a nursing home. As we age, we become less flexible. Many seniors can no longer stretch far enough to clip their own toenails. In addition, as we age our feet can suffer from a variety of ailments. Left untreated, these problems grow and do affect the rest of the body.

Doctors rarely do home visits and many of the seniors this bill would support cannot easily get to a doctor's office for this kind of on-going, regular care. Foot care nurses and specialist can bridge the gap of safe and expert routine foot care, especially for the homebound and disabled residents. These foot care specialists bring a focus on prevention, wellness, and health maintenance to their patients. Foot care nursing is not only important to the people receiving the care as they age-in-place, but it also offers support and relief to the family caregivers of these seniors.

This is not a radically new idea. Bill H6088 allows Rhode Island to join the rest of the country in supporting Foot Care Nursing.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. William A. Sterrett