

Steven Sepe

From: Andrew Pacheco <andrewpacheco@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:35 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Edwards, John G.
Subject: Support 2026 H7029

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Dear House and Human Services Committee and Representative Edwards,

I am writing to you to express my support for House Bill H7029, and urge you all to support this much needed bill as well. This bill would allow certified Foot Care Nurses to perform routine foot and nail care in people's homes. This bill would establish that routine foot and nail care as described in its contents, provided by a qualified Foot Care Nurse will not be deemed practicing Podiatry without a license.

I am a lifelong resident of Tiverton Rhode Island and 54 years of age. As a middle-aged adult who has cared for ailing family members in my home, I can attest to the difficulties and challenges that Rhode Island residents are faced with while aging in place. This bill would make it possible for the homebound, or those that have trouble getting out to see a podiatrist for this routine care to easily receive it in their own home. With our nation's demographics changing, we are living at a time where Baby Boomers and Generation X are growing old together. Rhode Island's population is aging and there are also those who are disabled for reasons aside from age, it is possible for two generations to benefit from being able to receive routine foot and nail care in the home setting.

To my knowledge, Rhode Island is the only state in the Union that does not allow routine foot and nail care to be performed by Certified Foot Care Nurses. I happen to know a bit more than average about this profession as the spouse of a Certified Foot Care Nurse who is able to service clients in nearby Massachusetts, but has not been able to serve Rhode Island residents since late 2023. It defies logic that other states feel properly trained and certified Nurses can perform this routine care, care that many people perform on themselves or family members if they are physically able, yet Rhode Island residents can't benefit from in-home care. I'm sure that all of you are aware that Rhode Island is currently in the midst of a health care crisis. Any action that can alleviate strains on the health care system of this state should be taken.

I urge you to think logically, and take action to support the needs of our beautiful state's aging population. We are behind the rest of the nation in home foot care provided by qualified nurses, Rhode Island residents deserve better! Please take action to fulfil this grossly under-served need. We can all do our part to make Rhode Island a better place to grow old together.

Thank you,
Andrew J Pacheco JR
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