

TO: Chair Donovan and members of the House Human Health Services
Committee Email: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

CC: Michelle E.McGaw

FROM: Barbara Beckmann

RE: Support for H7029

DATE: 02/09/2026

Chair Donovan and honorable members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:
My name is Barbara Beckmann and I live in Tiverton.

I am writing to urge you to support H7029 (Boylan), which would permit a nurse who has the appropriate knowledge and can demonstrate clinical competency to provide routine home foot care services.

I have lived in Rhode Island for 38 years and worked as a clinical social worker for the last 28 years. During that time, I have seen personally and professionally how the inability to access health and behavioral health care providers affects peoples' lives in a negative way. One of the essential, but often overlooked services needed to be easily accessed is routine foot care in the home. Many aging Rhode Islanders are unable to leave the house or even find a doctor who is able or willing to come to them. It is a well-known fact that foot care is essential for our well-being and neglecting foot issues can lead to severe health issues or even death.

Rhode Islanders deserve access to safe, routine foot care in the home. Aging in place often requires family caregivers to step in and provide personal care for loved ones, including routine foot care. Passing this bill and allowing nurses to fill this gap is the humane thing to do to promote the health and wellness of the most vulnerable in our state. Residents and their caregivers in RI deserve access to these services. Rhode Island is the only state in the country preventing trained nurses from providing this care.

A nearly identical bill passed in the House unanimously in 2025. Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Barbara Beckmann, Tiverton
