



February 10, 2026

Dear Chair Donovan and Members, House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Support for H7029

SACRI is pleased to support H7029 AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSE introduced by Representatives Boylan, McGaw, Potter, Donovan, Fogarty, Speakman, Azzinaro, Kislak, Bennett, Hopkins.

SACRI's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. We accomplish this through *organizing, public education, advocacy, and legislative advocacy*.

**H7029** provides that nurses with theoretical knowledge of and demonstrated clinical competency in foot and lower extremity anatomy and physiology, common foot pathology and nursing interventions, use of instruments used in nursing foot care and infection control may provide services in a home care setting which would include Assisted Living Residences but not nursing homes. Services would include: hygiene and shortening of toe and finger nails; assessing past medical history, circulation and skin integrity; methods of pain relief and implementing a plan of foot care based on standards of practice. Nurses providing in-home foot care services would need to complete two (2) out of the ten (10) required hours of continuing education per certification period. The bill further provides for the department of health to determine fair and reasonable license and renewal fees for nurses providing in home foot care.

SACRI has worked for many years to promote home and community-based services (HCBS) for persons with support needs. This includes creating the state goal of expending 50% of long term care state expenditures on HCBS vs institutional care, increasing eligibility for the @home cost share program and successfully advocating for fair reimbursement for home and community services paid for by Medicaid.

Allowing with nurses with the appropriate knowledge and clinical competency to provide a limited range of foot care services in a person's home is needed in supporting home/community care as well as a way to support our family caregivers. Persons needing these services are often older adults or persons with disabilities with mobility issues making it a challenge for their caregivers to arrange to access these needed services outside of the home. As persons age, nails change in a number of ways including thickening of nails making them difficult to cut. Underlying health conditions may also impact nail health making good foot hygiene more important. H7029 offers a safe and reasonable way to address foot hygiene for persons at home. I urge your favorable consideration of H7029.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Anne Costa, SACRI Executive Director