

Steven Sepe

From: Catherine Benoit <benoitcatherine4@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 4:52 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Support for Bill HR 7029

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This is an updated email; please disregard my previous email.

Hello. My name is Catherine Benoit and I live in Westerly. I am writing in support of bill H7029 which allows a certified foot care nurse to provide certain at-home foot care, including routine foot and nail care.

I am an APRN (Nurse Practitioner) who is licensed to practice in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine. I have been in practice as an RN since 1982 and as an APRN since 1990. For the past five years, I have been living and working part time in Bangor, Maine. While working in Hospice Care in Bangor, I encountered a homebound patient who was a retired physician in the community. He was 107 years old and was being cared for by his 80 year old daughter. His need for foot/nail care was immediately apparent upon his admission and I set out calling all local podiatrists to arrange this care at home. Despite my best efforts, I could find no one that was willing to make a home visit, however, one podiatrist provided me with the name of an RN who was certified in foot care and had a small business providing in-home medically based foot care. I contacted this RN, arranged foot care for my patient (and was extremely satisfied with the experience and the outcome) and ultimately, with her guidance, became Foot Care Certified myself in 2022. I was fortunate to be precepted by a local podiatrist during my training period who was extremely supportive of my plans for independent practice.

I have since been providing medically based foot care to Hospice patients in the greater Bangor area as well as no cost foot care to homeless individuals at The Brick Church Warming Center in Bangor. In addition, during my time in Westerly, I see residents of Mystic-Noank Congregate Senior Housing on a bimonthly basis to provide home based foot care. All of this care has been provided without incident or complication. As an APRN, I have many years of experience in home care and am pleased to add foot care to the skills that I bring to patients.

Now that I am back in Westerly full time, it has been my hope to connect with a small number of local individuals who are in need of home based foot care services. The outcome of this bill will determine if that is possible. I have personally witnessed the positive impact of the care that I provide to a population that would otherwise go unserved. I look forward to sharing my experience through in-person testimony of support for this bill on February 10, 2026.

Sincerely,

Catherine Benoit, APRN, CFCS