

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Judith Caires <jcaires@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 8:31 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** H7029

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TO: Chair Donovan and members of the House Human Health Services Committee

CC: David Bennet and Joe Shekarchi

FROM: Judith Caires

RE: Support for H7029

DATE: February 9, 2026

Chair Donovan and honorable members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Judi Caires and I live in Warwick, RI.

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 was a caregiver for nine years for someone with Parkinson's. Her tremors prevented her from doing her own foot care. Her inability to walk made it difficult to get her to a podiatrist.

I believe she and other 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. Family members often lack skill, knowledge, and confidence in safely providing this 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,

Judith J Caires

248 Trinity Street

Warwick, RI 02886