



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee Governor
Kasim J. Yarn Director

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7029 - AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

Dear Chair Donovan:

I submit this letter for the record to express the Office of Veterans Services' support for H7029, scheduled for hearing on February 10, 2026. This legislation would authorize certified foot care nurses to provide essential at-home foot services, including routine foot and nail care such as nail clipping—care that is basic, preventative, and medically necessary for many Rhode Islanders.

H7029 would be life-changing for homebound individuals, including Veterans like Joseph Borges of East Providence. Mr. Borges is a Vietnam War Veteran who is disabled and unable to leave his home for routine medical care. While he receives in-home primary care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, access to foot care specialists who can safely provide in-home treatment is limited. As a result, Mr. Borges—and many others like him—are left without care that is essential to preventing pain, infection, and serious complications.

H7029 offers a practical, compassionate, and cost-effective solution by expanding the qualified workforce able to deliver this care safely in the home.

The Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) defers to the Department of Health regarding the technical implementation of this legislation. Thank you for your time, your ongoing partnership, and your unwavering support of Rhode Island's Veterans and military families. I respectfully ask for your vote in support of H7029.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Yarn", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kasim J. Yarn
Director of Veterans Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Jennifer Boylan

RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy