



CITY OF PAWTUCKET

LEON A. MATHIEU SENIOR CENTER
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DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES



DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR

Testimony in Support of H 7029

MARY LOU MORAN
DIRECTOR

February 3, 2026

To Chairwoman Susan Donovan, House Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am writing in strong support of H 7029 which recognizes and promotes access to safe, appropriate, and high-quality foot care services for individuals receiving care in their homes. As Director of the Leon Mathieu Senior Center, I work daily with older adults who strive to remain independent, healthy, and safely housed in their own residences. Foot health is a critical but often overlooked component of overall health and mobility for seniors and individuals living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, and neuropathy. When routine foot care is inaccessible, minor issues can quickly escalate into infections, falls, hospitalizations, or permanent loss of mobility.

H 7029 appropriately defines home services foot care as a nursing intervention and establish clear standards for education, clinical competency, infection control, and continuing education. This measure ensures that clients receive high-quality care while preserving dignity, privacy, and respect in their own homes. Importantly, the legislation also emphasizes client education and timely referral to podiatrists or other qualified practitioners when advanced care is required, reinforcing patient safety and continuity of care.

From the perspective of a senior center serving community-dwelling older adults, this bill removes unnecessary barriers to essential preventive care and help close a significant service gap. Many individuals we serve are unable to safely perform their own foot care and may face transportation, mobility, or financial challenges that prevent them from accessing clinic-based services. Regulated in-home foot care delivered by qualified nurses supports aging in place and helps prevent avoidable complications that increase healthcare costs and diminish quality of life.

H 7029 represents a thoughtful, balanced approach that protects patients, supports the nursing workforce, and promotes better health outcomes for Rhode Island residents. I respectfully urge the committee to support passage of this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Moran, Director
Pawtucket Division of Senior Services
Leon Mathieu Senior Center

