

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



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February 10, 2026

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

RE: 2026 – H 7029 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Podiatrists

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter in support of **H 7029**. This bill would permit a trained and clinically competent certified foot care nurse to provide certain at-home foot care, including routine foot and nail care and to implement foot care plans.

If passed, this bill would significantly improve access to essential foot care services for individuals who are homebound, including individuals receiving services from the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). It allows licensed and appropriately certified nursing professionals to provide services in the comfort of an individual's own residence, promoting independence and well-being. Allowing at-home services, especially for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in a controlled and less stimulating environment, may reduce anxiety, as well as afford access to these services by those who otherwise would be unable to obtain them.

BHDDH is committed to this person-centered approach by allowing individuals to receive services in the environment that best meets their needs while providing safeguards for individuals in need of more complex podiatric services. The populations served by BHDDH would greatly benefit by expanding access to at-home foot care to address potential podiatric problems which, if left untreated, could result in more significant medical sequelae. BHDDH acknowledges that the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is responsible for oversight and safety related to these services, and we defer to their recommendations regarding the implementation of this program.

For the above-stated reasons, I respectfully urge the Honorable Members of the Committee to recommend passage of H 7029.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leclerc".

Richard Leclerc
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services
Honorable Jennifer Boylan
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy