

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

Email: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

CC: Michelle E. McGaw

FROM: William A. Sterrett

RE: Support for H7029

DATE: February 9, 2016

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

My name is William [Bill] Sterrett and I live in Tiverton.

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. As a retired pastor, who served my parishioners in Tiverton for over 30 years, I am well aware of the needs of the elder, with foot care being one of the hidden, but often present problems of the elderly. For some of my parishioners getting to the doctor was difficult and most doctors no longer do house visits. So, having a health care professional visit a patient in their home for routine footcare is very important. For many elderly the only people helping to take care of them in their homes are family members. These family members often lack the skill, knowledge, and confidence in safely providing this kind of care. Passing this bill and allowing nurses to fill this gap is the only reasonable thing to do to promote the health and wellness of the most vulnerable in our state. Residents and their caregivers in Rhode Island deserve access to these services.

Rhode Island is the only state in the country preventing trained nurses from providing this care.

To be honest, I am saddened that I have to write this letter again, as a nearly identical bill passed in the House unanimously in 2025. This is a very necessary service, so please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

William A. Sterrett