

**From:** Catherine Benoit <benoitcatherine4@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:02 PM

**To:** SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

**Subject:** Senate Bill S2116

My name is Catherine Benoit and I am writing in support of S2116. I am an APRN and have been practicing since 1990. While I am a RI resident, I have been living and working in Bangor, Maine for the past 5 years. It is there that I got my introduction to Foot Care Nursing.

I was working for a local hospice agency and I admitted a 107 year old man who was a retired physician in the community. It was clear that he needed foot and nail care and I set out calling all the local podiatrists looking for someone to make a home visit for foot care. Although I was unsuccessful, one of the podiatrists provided me with the name of an RN who was foot care certified and who ran a small business providing in home foot care. I phoned this nurse, set up an appointment and we were all very pleased with the results of her care. With her help and support, I, too, became foot care certified. During my training period, I was lucky to be precepted by a local podiatrist who was extremely supportive of my plans to practice independently.

Since 2022, I have seen private patients, hospice patients and I have provided no cost foot care to homeless individuals at the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. All of this care has been provided without incident or complication.

Fast forward and I am now back in Westerly full time. It had always been my plan to connect with a small group of individuals in Westerly who were interested in in-home foot care as well as to connect with the WARM Shelter regarding a no cost foot care clinic for the homeless population there. Those plans are contingent on the passage of this bill. I have seen firsthand the benefits of the care that I have provided to a population that I know would have gone unserved. I hope that this testimony will positively impact your understanding of the benefits that the passage of this bill would offer to all homebound Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Catherine Benoit, APRN, CFCS