

TO: Chairwoman Melissa Murray, Vice-Chairwoman Lauria, and members of the SENATE Health & Human Services Committee

Email: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

CC: sen-lauria@rilegislature.gov

FROM: Dr. Christine Gadbois, DNP, RN

RE: Support for S2116

DATE: 3/3/26

Chairwoman Murray and honorable members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Christine Gadbois and I live in Barrington.

I am writing to urge you to support S2116 (Urso), which would permit a nurse who has the appropriate knowledge and can demonstrate clinical competency to provide routine home foot care services. As an Advance Practice Nurse with over 4 decades in nursing and health care administration, I am acutely aware of the need for high quality, accessible care for older adults and adults with disabilities. This legislation is critical to provide both a clinical model as well as a reimbursement model.

Rhode Islanders deserve access to safe, routine foot care in the home. Aging in place often requires family caregivers to step in and provide personal care for loved ones, including routine foot care. Family members often lack skill, knowledge, and confidence in safely providing this care. Passing this bill and allowing nurses to fill this gap is the humane thing to do to promote the health and wellness of the most vulnerable in our state. Residents and their caregivers in RI deserve access to these services. Rhode Island is the only state in the country preventing trained nurses from providing this care.

A nearly identical bill passed in the House in 2025. Please pass this bill out of committee and to the Senate floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Gadbois, DNP, RN

Barrington, RI, 02806