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State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Senator Felag and members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee,

My name is James Silva and I am a resident of Tiverton, RI. I am writing to you today regarding Senate Bill S2116. S2116 would allow certified foot care nurses/certified foot care specialists to provide certain at-home foot care, including nail care. I support this bill and urge you to do the same. While I do not require such care myself, my elderly mother does. She is 89 years of age and getting her transported to various doctor's appointments is an ordeal that requires time, effort and planning. It is a burden on her and can mean a day out of work for myself or one of my siblings. As you can imagine at her age, she already has several specialists she needs to visit on a regular basis, such as her cardiologist and optometrist. Unlike these and several other specialists, routine foot care is not something that needs to be done in a doctor's office, nor is it a service that should specifically require a doctor to perform. Rhode Island is the *only* state in the USA that outlaws in home footcare by medical professionals who are not medical doctors. This is an unnecessary burden on our elderly population and the family members who support them. It does nothing to aid their health and, in fact, may put their health at risk when they turn to family members or other non-medical professionals to perform this care. This is especially true if they have circulation issues from diabetes or some other health concern, and they cannot or will not, make the effort to make it to appointment for something they deem less necessary than other medical appointments. Moreover, if there is a health concern, it may go unnoticed by a well-meaning family member performing the nail care, whereas a certified foot care nurse might recognize the concern and recommend the patient seek out a qualified podiatrist who can then treat the issue at hand.

In closing, I again urge you to support S2116. Passing this bill will only help ensure or elderly population have access to proper foot care they otherwise might not be receiving.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Silva

