

**From:** judy gray <grayjud@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 1, 2026 9:03 AM

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

**Cc:** Sen. DiMario, Alana <sen-dimario@rilegislature.gov>; Allison Carley <ACarley@newshorehamri.gov>; brigidprice@yahoo.com; Rep. Spears, Tina L. <rep-spears@rilegislature.gov>

**Subject:** Judith Gray, Bill number S2116, SUPPORT

TO: Chairwoman Melissa Murray and members of the SENATE Health & Human

Services Committee

CC: Alana M. DiMario

FM: Judith Gray, Citizen and Caregiver, Town of New Shoreham

RE: **Support for S2116**

DATE: March 1, 2026

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

My name is Judith Gray and I live on Block Island. 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.

When my father died and I took over care of my mother in 2018, it never occurred to me to check her feet. It was only after accompanying her to an annual physical several months later that I realized how bad they were: athlete's foot, nail fungus, ingrown nails, etc. As is often the case, there was no one in the family willing to get trained to work with Mom's feet including me. Foot care became an essential service for her ability to continue to age at home on Block Island. Thankfully, we were able to find someone with training who was privately willing to assist us with personal foot care on a regular basis. It is beyond my understanding that Rhode Island does not allow trained nurses to provide this essential service.

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.

Please pass Bill S2116.

Judith Gray

Town of New Shoreham