

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2116
Relating to Businesses and Professions — Nurses

March 3, 2026

Chairperson Murray and members of the Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 2116. This legislation is a vital necessity for my family in Warwick and for many others across the state who are struggling to access essential, home-based healthcare.

This bill reflects the real-world needs of veterans and individuals with disabilities. My grandfather is a veteran who has served his country and deserves to age in place with dignity. However, like many seniors of his generation, his mobility and overall health are tied to his ability to maintain proper foot hygiene – a task he can no longer safely perform for himself. Without the ability to have a nurse provide this care at home, he is at a much higher risk for infections that could lead to a loss of independence.

Furthermore, my brother lives with a neurological disability. For him, routine foot and nail care is not a matter of aesthetics; it is a high-risk medical task. Because of his specific neurological challenges, he requires the clinical expertise, steady hand, and medical training of a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to ensure care is performed safely and without injury.

Senate Bill 2116 is a common-sense solution that directly addresses these needs. By allowing nurses with demonstrated clinical competence and specialized continuing education to provide non-invasive foot care in the home, this bill:

- Honors the service of our veterans by providing them with the dignity of home-based preventative care.
- Protects individuals with disabilities from the risks of neglected foot health or improper care.
- Reduces the financial and physical burden on Rhode Island families and lowers the rate of avoidable emergency room visits.

I respectfully ask the Committee to support the health, safety, and independence of Warwick's veterans and disabled residents by recommending Senate Bill 2116 for immediate passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

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