



# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

## OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

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Daniel J. McKee **Governor**  
Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: S2116 - AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES**

Dear Chair Murray:

I submit this letter for the record to express the Office of Veterans Services' support for S2116, scheduled for hearing on March 3, 2026. This legislation would authorize certified foot care nurses to provide essential at-home foot services, including routine foot and nail care such as nail clipping—care that is basic, preventative, and medically necessary for many Rhode Islanders.

S2116 would be life-changing for homebound individuals, including Veterans like Joseph Borges of East Providence. Mr. Borges is a Vietnam War Veteran who is disabled and unable to leave his home for routine medical care. While he receives in-home primary care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, access to foot care specialists who can safely provide in-home treatment is limited. As a result, Mr. Borges—and many others like him—are left without care that is essential to preventing pain, infection, and serious complications.

S2116 offers a practical, compassionate, and cost-effective solution by expanding the qualified workforce able to deliver this care safely in the home.

The Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) defers to the Department of Health regarding the technical implementation of this legislation. Thank you for your time, your ongoing partnership, and your unwavering support of Rhode Island's Veterans and military families. I respectfully ask for your vote in support of S2116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. J. Yarn", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kasim J. Yarn  
Director of Veterans Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Lori Urso  
Kristen Silvia, Deputy Chief of Staff/Director of Legislation