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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 Rita Pezzullo and I am a resident of Tiverton, RI. I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill S2116. S2116 would allow certified foot care nurses to provide certain at-home foot care, including nail care which I desperately need. I strongly support this bill and urge you to do the same. I have lived most of my life in Tiverton, Rhode Island. I am 89 years old and no longer able to get myself to a doctor's appointment, or anywhere else, without assistance. I have a number of doctors that I need to see fairly consistently. I generally rely on my sons or their wives to get me to appointments, but I have so many it's not easy and is certainly inconvenient for them. When I was more stable on my feet and comfortable driving myself, making it to a podiatrist wasn't a huge concern. However, those days are now passed. I did find a qualified foot nurse to provide in-home care, and it was a huge convenience for me. She was amazing and I found myself getting foot care more regularly. However, she had to stop when she found out Rhode Island regulations made this type of care illegal. I spent my entire career as a registered nurse so I think I have the credentials to say, "this is disgusting!" The only reason for such a law is for podiatrists to have a monopoly on this service. Any doctor who opposes this bill is putting greed over the health of patients. I can tell you I used to have my foot nurse come every three months or so. Now that she can no longer legally provide the service, I have not had foot care in almost one year! Now I am way past do for foot care. I may go to a podiatrist someday, but with all the other appointments I need to get to, it's once more burden I keep putting off I favor of more pressing appointments.

Please pass bill S2116. Please put my health and the health of your elderly constituents ahead ridiculous regulations that promote only greed in the guise of protecting our health.

Sincerely yours,

Rita Pezzullo

