

Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in support of H5390

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of Representative Craven's bill H5390, the Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization (VICTIM) Act.

My name is Annie Jeong. I am the Development Director at Sojourner House, and I live in the West End/Federal Hill neighborhood of Providence with my husband and young daughter. I joined the Sojourner House team in September first and foremost because I believe in its mission – that everyone deserves love and a safe home. I had initially approached Sojourner House as a volunteer, and feel fortunate that the opportunity to join the team full-time presented itself. I am humbled and inspired every day by the clients we serve and the teams that rally around survivors, to provide them with dignity and a way forward in life.

Victims deserve access to safety. It is devastating that while our funding has continued to dwindle, the requests for our services continue to climb. I've been part of the Rhode Island community for years, and interacted closely with many women and young adults who found themselves in dangerous situations they were unable to escape. Sojourner House provides these individuals with options, and a path toward freedom and safety. For nearly fifty years, Sojourner House has stood alongside victims, providing emergency shelter, access to basic necessities such as groceries, and trauma-informed care.

An allocation to victim services would enable Sojourner House to continue doing this life-saving and changing work. Moreover, it is an important (and very optimal) investment for the Rhode Island government. In the past calendar year, Sojourner House sheltered over 250 children; the services provided would have cost other agencies and the government an estimated \$30 million. The value of Sojourner House's services are immense, and that \$30 million does not even begin to account for the adults we serve. This is what Sojourner House brings to the community, and can continue bringing.

**Please pass the Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization Act this year.**

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony. Please contact me at [ajeong@sojournerri.org](mailto:ajeong@sojournerri.org) or 253-921-1860 if you have any questions about our work or this testimony.

Sincerely,

Annie Jeong  
299 Carpenter Street #101  
Providence, RI 02909