

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

**RE: H 5390 – “Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Public Safety – Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization Act”**

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Salvatore, and I proudly serve on the Board of Directors at Sojourner House, an organization that supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking throughout Rhode Island. As a lifelong Providence resident and former City Councilor, I’m honored to be part of an organization that not only provides shelter, but also offers hope, healing, and the tools for survivors to rebuild their lives.

In my public service and personal life, I have witnessed firsthand the urgent need for the services Sojourner House offers. During my time on the City Council, I worked with constituents — some with young children — who were finally able to escape years of abuse. Because of Sojourner House’s housing programs, they found safe shelter, guidance from compassionate case managers, and the support needed to transition into stable, independent living. They weren’t forced to return to unsafe environments — they had real options.

With domestic violence cases and homelessness on the rise the stakes have never been higher. Unfortunately, demand continues to outpace resources, and the federal government is serious about defunding these critical programs. By supporting **H 5390**, we can begin to change that. This legislation will help ensure that survivors are not turned away due to lack of housing. **No one should have to choose between sleeping in their car or returning to a dangerous situation.**

Approving **H 5390** means offering a lifeline to survivors — our neighbors — who are seeking safety and stability. These are not just line items in a budget; these are real people whose futures hang in the balance.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support **H 5390**. This bill is about more than funding — it is about protecting lives and preserving dignity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David A. Salvatore