

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 Kirsten Davis, I live in Barrington, Rhode Island, and I work at Sojourner House in Providence. I have seen, first hand, how domestic violence affects every community and affects all demographic groups. According to the most recent Report on Intimate Partner Violence Survey from the CDC, almost 1 in 2 women and more than 2 in 5 men reported experiencing sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.

My role at Sojourner House is Vice President of Grants and I am receiving information on a daily basis regarding extensive cuts and terminations to federal funding. Last year, we received a major cut to our VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) grants and now we are facing a massive cut to the state's Consolidated Homeless Fund. We receive grants through HHS (Health & Human Services) that we are anticipating to be cut completely or significantly cut back beginning this October. In addition, the DOJ (Dept. of Justice) has just begun to terminate many of its grants – and we currently receive DOJ funding for six different programs for victims.

Without this funding...

- there would be no designated shelter or housing in Rhode Island for victims of human trafficking.
- survivors would not be able to get help with legal issues – getting a restraining order against their abuser or obtaining custody of their children from an abusive father.
- victims who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing would not receive the specialized services they need to heal from their trauma.
- teenagers in our Rhode Island schools would not receive the vital prevention education they need to stop the cycle of Interpersonal violence that permeates our communities.

If passed, The V.I.C.T.I.M. Act could help fund these programs and ensure the continuation of vital services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

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 401-228-3767 if you have any questions about our work or this testimony.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Davis
4 Ridgeland Road
Barrington, Rhode Island