

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,

My name is Melissa Miller. I'm the Anniversary Campaign Manager at Sojourner House. I live in Hope/Scituate, RI. I am writing in strong support of Representative Craven's bill H5390, the Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization (VICTIM) Act.

Victim services are the essential lifelines for individuals who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. These are not just traumatic events - they are life-altering crises that leave survivors and victims in urgent need of safety, emotional support, legal advocacy, and long-term resources to rebuild their lives. Sojourner House offers a safe haven during moments of extreme vulnerability, providing everything from emergency shelter to counseling to legal aid and case management. These services are critical not only to help survivors and victims escape dangerous situations but also to begin their journey toward healing and independence.

This is why the passage of this bill and the funding it ensures is absolutely vital. Without this support, and with looming federal funding cuts, we risk turning survivors away, delaying care, and scaling back life-saving programs at a time when demand is rising. Federal funding cuts may force us to make impossible choices: choosing between keeping shelters open or providing legal advocacy, cutting back staff while more people call our hotline in crisis. This bill is not just about dollars - it's about lives, safety and justice. Survivors and victims are counting on us, and we are counting on you to make sure these essential services remain strong and accessible.

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 401-228-3790 if you have any questions about our work or this testimony.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miller
9 Clinton Ave
Hope, RI 02831