

4/23/25

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

My name is Salma Diakhate and I am a survivor of human trafficking. I'm writing in support of the V.I.C.T.I.M. Act because I know how essential victim services are. When I left a difficult and dangerous situation, I didn't know where to turn. That's when I found Sojourner House.

Sojourner House provided every service I needed and more—emergency shelter, counseling, basic necessities, and emotional support. They helped me feel safe and supported during a time when everything felt uncertain. Without their care and guidance, I don't think I would have made it this far.

I believe the V.I.C.T.I.M. Act would allow organizations like Sojourner House to continue supporting survivors like me in meaningful, consistent ways. A \$30 million investment would make a real difference in ensuring that help is there when someone needs it most. Thank you for considering this important step toward supporting survivors across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Salma Diakhate