

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
House Finance Committee

Re: Support - H5478

Dear Chairman Abney,

My name is Connor Ratier and I am a resident of North Kingstown, Rhode Island. I am writing to express my strong support for House bill H-5478 which would provide funding for Nora's Haven, an organization I care deeply about.

I am in support of H-5478 because Nora's Haven engages in crucial work that supports vulnerable populations in our state, survivors and families of traumatic experiences including interpersonal violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Rhode Island working with high risk clients, I witness a gap in support particularly around housing for those who are looking to remove themselves from harmful situations at the hands of those causing the harm. Nora's Haven has provided survivors with this immediate opportunity to gain a sense of safety and tend to the basic human needs of their family and themselves, without fear of being harmed. Nora's Haven has worked with clients in immediate crisis situations which are often the most vulnerable times someone seeks support and often the first time they've sought support from an outside organization or professional like myself.

You have a chance to fill a gap in funding which would provide urgent support to clients who are fleeing extremely difficult situations in our community. They deserve the chance to connect with an organization like Nora's Haven and experience care and support that is not scary or harmful to their wellbeing.

I hope that the House Finance Committee will pass H-5478 or include it in the budget this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Connor Ratier, LICSW 4/24/2025
North Kingstown, Rhode Island