

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
House Finance Committee

Re: Support - H5478

Dear Chairman Abney,

My name is Jeanine Calkin and I am a resident of Warwick, 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.

While there are many organizations that look to the General Assembly to fill funding gaps, I strongly believe that any funds provided to Nora's Haven will have a tremendous impact. Nora's Haven addresses immediate needs and helps provide a path for victims to move on to a new safe and happy life. Nora's Haven fills in the gap of current services offered to victims by fulfilling urgent needs including safe transportation to temporary housing, disposable electronic devices, basic needs and access to workforce training that is coordinated by one person to alleviate any anxiety of the survivor - and is not currently provided by other organizations.

Nora's Haven prioritizes outreach to communities facing systemic challenges, such as people of color, individuals with disabilities, those with limited English proficiency, older adults, LGBTQ+ communities, residents of low-income neighborhoods, and unhoused individuals. Communities who confront an array of daily challenges, including underemployment, food insecurity, relocation costs, childcare, physical safety, and financial instability. The base clientele is 70% BIPOC or from an underserved or marginalized community.

The difference between Nora's Haven and other organizations is that they provide access to immediate housing, provide transportation and relocation services, and everything is culturally comprehensive and sensitive. There are no wait lists as everything is immediate.

People with disabilities often are left behind when trying to leave a hostile environment, and many services cannot assist them. Nora's Haven makes sure that wherever people are relocated is accessible. This includes for clients in wheelchairs or using listening devices. If equipment is missing, it will be provided.

Nora's Haven not only addresses immediate needs, but helps provide a path for victims to move on to a new safe and happy life. This includes access to credit repair services and workforce training through the Department of Labor and Training (and others). It provides access to things like Google Scholarships (that led to survivors being able to learn to code), and to CNA classes (through multiple agencies like Genesis Healthcare).

I hope that the House Finance Committee will pass H-5478 this year and ensure those who are facing the worst moments of their lives get the direct help they need.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Jeanine Calkin