

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
House Finance Committee

Re: Support - H5478

Dear Chairman Abney,

My name is Kerry Murphy, and I am a resident of East Providence. I am writing to express my strong support for House bill H-5478 which would provide funding for Nora's Haven, an organization that provides critical supports to people like me. I care deeply about preserving access to the help they offer.

I am in support of H-5478 because I can attest to the life saving measures provided by Nora's Haven such as how they provide safety and basic needs that support a person and their children in ways that government systems do not. Even my social worker who is part of another nonprofit to support women escaping abusive relationships, commented on how they wish they could offer the safety providing measures that Nora's Haven does. Nora's Haven is a small organization that provides direct services to victims. As a recipient of their help, I could protect my daughters without leaving Rhode Island; escape danger in my home to the safety of an undisclosed location; have the help needed to navigate the removal of an abusive spouse from the marital domicile; and receive supports in acquiring and installing an alarm system which made moving forward possible. Nora's Haven protected us when our abuser came to the home with a quick temporary escape while the police and fire department took measures. They were there soon after the EMTs. Help was not only offered in the home but as part of the court proceedings; the people of Nora's Haven go above and beyond by treating those in need with compassion and helping restore their strength in terms of sense of self. Staff sat between my and my violent husband in divorce court so that he could not stare at me when no protection was in the room. They empower those hanging on by a thread often putting their own safety at risk. Staff members provide support that allows a person, in their darkest hour, to have and hold a glimmer of hope for a future. THAT made all the difference for me and my offspring.

I am an educated person who holds multiple degrees. I have a career and a large network of family and friends. Without Nora's Haven, I shudder to think of where I would be— it most likely would not be in my home state of RI, where I have lived for 56 years. Nora's Haven does what others cannot, and that is why I implore the House Finance Committee to pass H-5478 or include it in the budget this year. Your approval will save lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kerry L. Murphy  
East Providence, RI