

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

**RE:   *H 5323 – “Joint Resolution Making and Appropriation of \$500,000 to Sojourner House in Rhode Island”***

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Salvatore, and I proudly serve on the Board of Directors at Sojourner House, which supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking across Rhode Island. I strongly support H 5323, which authorizes a \$500,000 appropriation to this vital organization.

As a lifelong Providence resident and former City Councilor, I’ve seen firsthand the urgent need for safe, affordable housing for victims fleeing abuse. A 2023 report from the Attorney General showed that over 20% of reported felonies reported involved domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> This sobering statistic should be a clear sign of the crisis our neighbors face.

Sojourner House offers more than shelter. With 150 supportive housing units statewide, the organization provides stability, healing, and hope. But the need far exceeds available resources, and looming federal cuts threaten their ability to meet demand.

H 5323 is not just funding. Instead, it’s a lifeline for those rebuilding after trauma. I urge the committee and the full House to support this resolution and commit to ensuring that every survivor has the opportunity to live safely and with dignity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David A. Salvatore

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wpri.com/target-12/domestic-violence-is-most-common-felony-in-ri-data-shows/>