

Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in support of H5323

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

I write in strong support Representative Casey's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House, H5323.

My name is Evelyn Castillo and I am a bilingual housing advocate with Sojourner House who was born and raised in Providence RI. In my role I have encountered survivors who have come to us with their children in tow with nothing but the clothes on their back and their sheer willingness to survive but it is what I have seen after starting services with us that has made me proud to do the work I do everyday. Through programs like rapid rehousing we are able to help these survivors with the basic need of having a safe place to call home, something many of us don't give a second thought to in our day to day lives but to the community we serve it is a light at the end of the tunnel. One cannot focus on employment or education if you do not have a safe place to call home and while we serve everyone who comes through our doors due to physical and monetary limitations there are times we cannot immediately put them somewhere safe this is why I am in favor of supporting the \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House because we not only talk the talk we walk the walk and every single penny will go to serve the most vulnerable in our community.

Please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony. Please contact me at 401-228-3815 if you have any questions about our work or this testimony.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Castillo

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Evelyn Castillo
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