



State of Rhode Island

**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**

**Gregg M. Amore**, *Secretary of State*

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

RE: In support of HJR5323, Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to  
Sojourner House in Rhode Island

Dear Chair Abney,

I am writing in support of House Resolution 5323, legislation requesting funding for Sojourner House to continue and enhance support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and human trafficking through services like shelter, housing, and group support.

The Department of State's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) enables victims of domestic violence, abuse, stalking, sexual assault, or trafficking to protect the confidentiality of their addresses. Individuals impacted by crime may find it difficult or frightening to continue their daily tasks and routine, especially in matters relating to public civic life. The ACP relies on the partnership of nonprofits such as Sojourner House in order to inform victims of domestic violence about the program and how to apply. We also depend on these nonprofit organizations to continue helping and directing victims to other services they may need.

Sojourner House is also a developer of affordable housing for victims and survivors, and in 2024, assisted nearly 2,000 victims from 33 cities and towns across the state. They receive over 80% of their funding from federal sources, most of which require matching funds. I urge this Committee to provide matching funds to ensure Sojourner House can continue its vital work by supporting the funding request proposed in HJR5323.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Stephen M. Casey

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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