

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

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

For over 49 years, Sojourner House, a Providence-based non-profit now serving all of Rhode Island, has supported thousands of victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. They offer services like support groups, shelter, permanent housing, sexual health advocacy, and emotional support. In 2024, they assisted nearly 2,000 victims from 33 RI cities and towns.

Five years ago, recognizing the need for affordable housing, Sojourner House began developing housing and now owns or leases over 175 units statewide, providing permanent supportive housing to victims. This is the most effective way to help families transition to safety.

Sojourner House is the only organization in Rhode Island creating affordable housing for victims. They receive over 80% of their funding from federal sources, most of which require matching funds. It's time for Rhode Island to provide matching funds to ensure Sojourner House can continue its vital work.

This is a smart return on investment and is helping Rhode Island meet its low-income housing goals. Please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.

Thank you for your consideration!

Joanne Chang

[My Email](#)