

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 of Representative Casey's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House, H5323.

My name is Melissa Miller and I'm the Anniversary Campaign Manager at Sojourner House. I live in Hope, RI.

Victim services are the essential lifelines for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. These are not just traumatic events - they are life-altering crises that leave survivors and victims in urgent need of safety, emotional support, legal advocacy, and long-term resources to rebuild their lives. Sojourner House offers a safe haven during moments of extreme vulnerability, providing everything from emergency shelter to counseling to legal aid and case management. These services are critical not only to help survivors and victims escape dangerous situations but also to begin their journey toward healing and independence.

This is why the passage of this bill and the funding it ensures is absolutely vital. Without this support, and with looming federal funding cuts, we risk turning survivors away, delaying care, and scaling back life-saving programs at a time when demand is rising. Federal funding cuts may force us to make impossible choices: choosing between keeping shelters open or providing legal advocacy, cutting back staff while more people call our hotline in crisis, and much more. This bill is not just about dollars - it's about lives, safety and justice. Survivors and victims are counting on us, and we are counting on you to make sure these essential services remain strong and accessible.

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

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony. Please contact me at [mmiller@sojournerri.org](mailto:mmiller@sojournerri.org) if you have any questions about our work or this testimony.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miller  
9 Clinton Ave.  
Hope, RI 028