

5/22/25

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 House Finance Committee,

My name is Shannon McDonnell and I am the Communications Manager at Sojourner House. I am writing today to share a letter written by a client of ours in support of H5323. The client has current safety concerns and asked for her letter to remain anonymous. I hope you will take her lived experience into consideration.

I am writing this letter to express my strong support of the Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization Act and Senator Murray's joint resolution in support of Sojourner House. I felt compelled to testify because Sojourner House did the most incredible thing for my family and me, providing a beacon of hope during our darkest days.

As a homeless domestic violence survivor struggling with a disability and no income due to my legal status in the US, Sojourner House welcomed us with open arms, free from judgment.

Thanks to their unwavering support, I secured housing and stability for my children, empowering us to focus on our future. With a roof over our heads, I could finally prioritize my health, liberated from the weight of uncertainty. I extend my deepest gratitude to Sojourner House and their remarkable staff for their tireless dedication to providing a safe haven for those in need. Their expert counseling enabled me to triumph over my trauma, and I'm eternally thankful for the staff's instrumental role in placing my family and me in a beautiful, clean home. I'm forever grateful.

My family's story is not unique. There are thousands of families across Rhode Island navigating similar challenges, and they deserve to have care available to them when they need it.

For that reason, I urge you to invest in the life-saving work of Sojourner House.

*Respectfully,
A Survivor*

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Shannon McDonnell
45 Willard Ave
Providence, RI 02905