



AIDS Care Ocean State

18 Parkis Avenue
Providence, RI
02907-1408
401-521-3603

www.aidscaresos.org

Fax:
401-861-2981

Email:
info@aidscareos.org

501c3 Tax Id:
22-2929749

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,

My name is Stephen Hogan Jr. and I am writing on behalf of AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS) in strong support of Representative Casey's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House, H5323.

ACOS is the largest HIV/AIDS organization in RI and we have worked closely with Sojourner House for decades as we share many of the same objectives in our missions' and even share some of the same clients. We know how important stable housing, sexual health advocacy, harm reduction and healthy living results in healthier outcomes and better quality of life.

For 48 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, 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.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hogan Jr.
Director of Development
& Public Relations
AIDS Care Ocean State