

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 Noelle and my son Izaiah just turned 5. We have been living with help from Sojourner House since September of 2023. We were welcomed with open arms to live at a safehouse after losing everything because of the actions of my son's father, who was my partner for almost a decade. We dealt with verbal abuse and violence in our home daily. My son, who was 3 at the time, is medically complex and deals with a lot of trauma, as do I. Sojourner House has helped us to be in temporary housing now for a little over a year. They've helped with frants, holidays, housing lists, therapy for my son, they even helped me find schooling for my son, who enters elementary school in the fall. They have given us peace and safety. Because of Sojourner House, my son is thriving and has a safe place he can call home— as do I.

Sojo helps so many mother's, women, and people to get out of domestic violence situations, and helps them every step of the way as they rebuild their lives and find a sense of normalcy.

Funding for Sojourner House is so important. There are so many others on waitlists waiting for a phone call so they can find safety and freedom from their current situation. The staff work so hard for the people they help daily, but they need more money to continue to help women and families in the capacity they do. They truly care and want the best for my son and I. We may not be here today if Sojo didn't accept us to their program. I'll forever be grateful for all they've done and continue to do not just for my son and I but for everyone else they've helped.

I hope you chose to invest in their work.

Sincerely,
Noelle

1570 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02909