

Chair Marvin L. Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House



May 14, 2026

Re: Testimony in support of H7324

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

My name is Angelina Clemons, and I'm the Senior Director of Operations at Sojourner House, writing in strong support of H7324.

I oversee the property side of our work, so most of my day is spent dealing with the real conditions our families are living in and what it takes to keep people safely housed. I'm not usually writing testimony, but I felt it was important to speak to what this funding actually means from an operational perspective.

A lot of the individuals we serve are coming out of crisis and into housing that has to work immediately. It has to be safe, functional, and stable, because there really isn't a buffer. When that piece is solid, you can see the difference almost right away. Families settle, routines start to form, and people can begin to move forward. When it's not, everything becomes harder.

Over the past few years, we've taken on more housing because the need is there. We now manage over 200 units across the state, and maintaining that while also trying to grow is a constant balancing act.

This funding would give us the ability to do that work in a more sustainable way. It's not about building something new from scratch—it's about strengthening something that is already working and making sure we can continue to meet the need we're seeing every day.

A lot of our funding also depends on matching support, so state investment directly impacts how much we can actually bring in and use.

From where I sit, this is a very practical investment. It supports real, day-to-day work that directly affects whether families are able to stay housed and move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Angelina Clemons
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