



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance

RE: In support of HJR7324, Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to
Sojourner House in Rhode Island

Dear Chair Abney,

I am writing in support of House Resolution 7324, legislation requesting funding for Sojourner House to continue and enhance support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and human trafficking through services like shelter, housing, and group support.

The Department of State's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) enables victims of domestic violence, abuse, stalking, sexual assault, or trafficking to protect the confidentiality of their addresses. Individuals affected by crime may find it difficult or frightening to continue their daily routines and tasks, especially in matters related to public civic life. The ACP currently serves 130 families, including 51 children. Furthermore, this program relies on the partnership of nonprofits such as Sojourner House in order to inform victims of domestic violence about the ACP and how to apply. We also depend on these nonprofit organizations to continue helping and directing victims to other services they may need.

Sojourner House is also a developer of affordable housing for victims and survivors, and in 2024, they assisted nearly 2,000 victims from 33 cities and towns across the state. They receive over 80% of their funding from federal sources, most of which require matching funds. I urge this Committee to provide matching funds to ensure Sojourner House can continue its vital work by supporting the \$500,000 funding request proposed in HJR7324.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Stephen M. Casey