

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I write in strong support of H7324 and the proposed \$500,000 allocation to support the vital work of Sojourner House.

As someone who has worked closely with vulnerable populations throughout Rhode Island in both peer recovery and housing-related roles, I have seen firsthand the importance of organizations like Sojourner House. Their work provides not only safety and shelter, but also dignity, stability, advocacy, and hope to individuals and families facing domestic violence, sexual violence, homelessness, and other serious hardships.

Sojourner House is a critical resource in our community, particularly for individuals who are low-income, housing insecure, or navigating traumatic circumstances. Their ability to provide supportive housing and wraparound services creates meaningful long-term outcomes for Rhode Islanders who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

The proposed funding is not only compassionate, but fiscally responsible. Supporting stable housing and trauma-informed services reduces strain on emergency systems, shelters, hospitals, and other public resources while helping families move toward long-term safety and independence.

I respectfully urge the committee to support H7324 and the requested allocation so Sojourner House can continue and expand this essential work across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**James Sprole**

Housing Navigator

Sojourner House

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*Committed to Ending Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence & Trafficking*

