

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Naomi Mark, Housing Development Manager at Sojourner House, and I reside at [624 Washington Street, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816](#). I write in strong support of Senator Murray's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House.

For 50 years, Sojourner House has supported over 60,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking across Rhode Island. Through housing, shelter, advocacy, and support services, the organization provides a critical pathway to safety and stability.

In my role, I work to expand housing for survivors, and I see every day how transformative stable housing can be. I also write as a survivor of domestic and financial violence. Before my experience, I lived an upper middle-class life proof that domestic violence does not discriminate. I have heard similar stories from women across professional fields, including civil service and law. We must remove the biases around who needs these resources and recognize that anyone may need them at any time.

No one should ever have to choose between having a place to live and being safe. Leaving a dangerous situation shouldn't mean facing homelessness.

Sojourner House serves some of the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. In 2025, 63% of clients were homeless at intake and 93% were low or extremely low-income. Last year, over 5,000 victims were served statewide. With more than 200 housing units, Sojourner House is leading the way in providing permanent supportive housing for survivors. With a \$500,000 allocation, they could house 70 more adults and 127 children—at a significantly lower cost than other models.

With over 80% of funding coming from federal sources that require matching funds, Rhode Island's support is essential to sustain and expand this work.

I respectfully urge you to support this investment in Sojourner House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Naomi Mark

[624 Washington Street](#)
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Housing Development Manager