

David A. Salvatore

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island Senate

RE: *S 2848 “Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to Sojourner House in Rhode Island”*

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of Senator Murray’s Joint Resolution – S 2848 – requesting a \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House in the FY 2027 budget. As a board member of Sojourner House, and as a former Providence City Council member and President, I have seen firsthand the organization’s profound impact on individuals and families across Rhode Island.

For 50 years, Sojourner House has provided critical services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. What began as a Providence-based nonprofit has grown into a statewide resource, serving more than 60,000 individuals over its history. In the past year alone, the organization supported over 2,000 victims through emergency shelter, housing, advocacy, and trauma-informed care.

Recognizing that safe, stable housing is essential to long-term recovery, Sojourner House expanded its mission seven years ago to include the development of affordable and supportive housing. Today, the organization owns or leases more than 175 units across Rhode Island, offering survivors a path to permanent stability. This housing-first approach is one of the most effective ways to help families safely rebuild their lives.

Sojourner House is uniquely positioned as the only organization in Rhode Island dedicated to developing affordable housing specifically for victims of violence. However, more than 80% of its funding comes from federal sources, many of which require state matching funds. Without that support, Rhode Island risks leaving critical federal dollars on the table and limiting the organization’s ability to meet growing demand.

A \$500,000 allocation represents a strategic investment – one that leverages federal funding, expands access to safe housing, and advances the state’s broader affordable housing goals.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support S2848 and this critical funding for Sojourner House.

Sincerely,



David Salvatore
Board Member
Sojourner House