



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

5 May 2026

The Honorable Louis DiPalma
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance

RE: *2026-S 2848 – Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to Sojourner House in Rhode Island*

Chair DiPalma:

I write in support of 2026-S 2848, which would help house survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault and maximize federal resources available to Sojourner House through a \$500,000 appropriation. In Rhode Island, housing costs have continued to rise, and vacancy rates remain low. As a result, survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse can often find themselves trapped in dangerous living situations. For such individuals, the decision to leave home is not just emotional – it is profoundly shaped by the availability of a safe, affordable space.

That is why Treasury introduced legislation to expand access to the Crime Victim Compensation Program (“CVCP”) to allow victims of stalking to relocate and to increase relocation funding available for all victims. Both bills will help ensure that victims of stalking, sexual assault, and domestic abuse have *meaningful* access to housing. While the CVCP can provide temporary housing support, organizations like Sojourner House offer a more lasting and supportive solution. For years, Sojourner House has helped to house survivors comfortably and confidentially while giving them access to necessary support services. Recently, however, federal funds that traditionally supported these efforts have come under increased scrutiny in Washington, leaving thousands of survivors at risk of homelessness. This \$500,000 appropriation is crucial to support Sojourner’s permanent supportive housing development program and secure matching federal grants.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JD", written over a circular scribble.

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

cc: The Honorable Melissa Murray