

Chairman Louis DiPalma  
Senate Finance Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Ri 02903  
Re: Testimony in support of S2848

Dear Chairman DiPalma and members of the committee,

I strongly support Sojourner House's housing allocation bills S2848.

I am the Vice President of Operations at Sojourner House. I have been with the agency for 15 years, from the time we were a very small grassroots organization until now, where our services have expanded to serve the entire state of Rhode Island and which now serve thousands of people each year.

The impact that Sojourner House has in the lives of thousands of individuals can only be measured by the consistent growth it has had not only in its size, but in the number of different programs to serve the most vulnerable populations. As the head of Operations, I get to see first hand the incredible impact the expanding housing program has had not only in keeping victims housed in safe locations, but to also give them the dignity to restart their life after abuse with all the support they need.

Sojourner House needs your support for additional funding. If you ever want to see how much is needed, I invite you to attend a housing clinic any Thursday from 9 am to 1pm. What you will see, will absolutely convince you. Dozens of single mothers on the brink of homelessness. Young people desperately seek support after family violence. Victims of human trafficking seeking refuge. You'll see despair, but you will also see hope. You will see advocates being resourceful and supportive, giving guidance and comfort. Giving alternatives and solutions.

The imminent federal cuts to our life saving programs would be detrimental to many clients that depend on us. From evictions, to hunger, to lack of legal representation, to the elimination of supportive services, Sojourner House faces some hard decisions if the state doesn't come through and help fill the gap. Many Rhode Islanders will be severely impacted by these cuts which ultimately affects us all.

Please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony. Please contact me at 401-450-4943 if you have any questions about our work or this testimony.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Greenfield  
9B Wheeler Ln,  
Hope Valley RI 02832