

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 Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Pamela Abadio and I am writing in strong support Senator Murray's joint resolution in support of Sojourner House.

It's because of the wonderful experience I had as a client at Sojourner House that I felt compelled to testify today. When I was in crisis, Sojourner House gave me and my daughters a place to live. More than that, they gave us an opportunity for a better life. Asking for help was an incredibly scary thing to do, but their team supported me every step of the way.

As a single mother, I had to find work, and while I was looking, Sojourner House covered my rent. Even after that, thanks to their generous payment plans and the support of my advocates I was able to budget and I learned how to save money. I will never forget the amazing and wonderful experience I had there. They checked in on me and my family constantly; making sure my daughters had food in the fridge, seeing if I needed anything, and just being wonderful mentors. I'm so thankful for all they did to help me become the independent woman I am today.

Without their support, I don't know where me and my daughters would be.

As you consider whether or not programs like theirs are worthy of state funding, I ask you to remember the thousands of families across Rhode Island who are just like mine— families who have nowhere else to turn.

Sincerely,
Pamela Abadio