



May 4, 2026

Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support of S2848 - JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO SOJOURNER HOUSE IN RHODE ISLAND

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Rhode Island Senate Finance Committee:

I write in strong support of the Joint Resolution to authorize \$500,000 in funding for Sojourner House.

Sojourner House is an incredible organization which has been providing safe shelter, housing, and life-saving supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking since 1976. Each year, their dedicated staff help our state's most vulnerable individuals begin to rebuild their lives. Their support includes housing, counseling, and legal advocacy. Without it, many of these individuals would find themselves soon returned to a cycle of abuse.

At SWAP we understand the importance of providing housing for our lowest income and neediest populations. Sojourner House has several options depending on client need – emergency shelters, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. With a safe place to sleep and access to the abundant counseling services offered by Sojourner House, their clients have a fighting chance to rebuild their lives and move on from the abuse they have suffered.

I urge the committee to approve the \$500,000 appropriation for Sojourner House in FY 2027 so that they can continue their important work for our state.

Thank you for your consideration. I invite you to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Carla DeStefano
Executive Director