

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Rosindah Singh <rosindahsingh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 1:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of S2848

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Chairman Louis DiPalma

May 5, 2026

Senate/House 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 write in strong support of Senator Murray's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House.**

For 50 years, Sojourner House, a Providence-based non-profit now serving all of Rhode Island, has supported over 60,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. They offer services like support groups, shelter, housing, sexual health advocacy, and emotional support.

I am one of the blessed women who was able to escape a 13 year domestic violence relationship, alive and well, with my four children because of the attorney through Sojourner House, able to feel safe again after being awarded a three-year restraining order, and give my four children and I the safe and healthy life we deserve. If it weren't for Sojourner's aid, I don't know where my children and I would be.

Sojourner House is a profound asset to our Rhode Island community especially to those from some of the most vulnerable backgrounds. In 2025, nearly two thirds (63%) of their clients were homeless at the time of intake and 93% were considered low or extremely low-income. Overall, last year, they assisted over 5,000 victims across the state in nearly every city.

Seven years ago, recognizing the need for affordable housing, Sojourner House began developing housing and now owns or leases over 200 units statewide, providing permanent supportive housing to victims. This is the most effective way to help families transition to safety and Sojourner House does it effectively by stretching funds to ensure those most people and families are supported. For example, with the proposed \$500,000 allocation, they could house 70 more adults and 127 more children with a savings of nearly 93% of what it would cost another state entity to do the same.

Sojourner House is the **only organization in Rhode Island creating affordable housing for victims**. They receive over 80% of their funding from federal sources, most of which require matching funds. It's time for Rhode Island to provide matching funds to ensure Sojourner House can continue its vital work.

**This is a smart return on investment and is helping Rhode Island meet its low-income housing goals. Please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.**

Thank you,

Rosindah Clephar Singh

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Gina Pellicano <chromatic121@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 12:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of S2848

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Dear Chairman DiPalma and members of the committee,

My name is Gina Pellicano and I am writing in strong support of Senator Murray's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House.

I am a Certified Public Accountant and currently serve as the Board Treasurer for Sojourner House. Since getting involved with the Organization in 2021, I have personally seen the needs of the community continue to increase, all while resources become more and more limited. As Treasurer, I am acutely aware of the significant impact this \$500,000 allocation would have on the Organization and the community at large. If we are allocated these funds, we will ensure they will be used prudently and in full support of our mission.

By way of background, Sojourner House is a Rhode Island not-for-profit organization that has supported over 60,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Sojourner House offers a variety of services including support groups, shelter, housing, sexual health advocacy, and emotional support. Last year alone, Sojourner House assisted over 2,000 victims across the state.

Two years before I joined the Organization, in recognition of the need for affordable housing, Sojourner House began developing housing and now owns or leases over 175 units throughout Rhode Island. With this we are able to provide permanent supportive housing to victims. Sojourner House is the only organization in Rhode Island creating affordable housing for victims, and we believe this is the most effective way to help families transition to safety.

However, this can only be made possible with adequate financial resources.

Sojourner House receives over 80% of its funding from federal sources, most of which require matching funds. To ensure that Sojourner House can continue its vital work, these matching funds from the State of Rhode Island would be instrumental. This is a smart return on investment and would help Rhode Island meet its low-income housing goals.

**To close, we ask that you please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.**

Submitted respectfully,

Gina Pellicano, CPA

Board Treasurer, Sojourner House

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Joanne Chang <joanneca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 11:29 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of S2848

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Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of Representative Casey's Joint Resolution to support Sojourner House.

As a board member of Sojourner House, as well as a graduate of both MIT and Harvard, and a mother of three, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the profound and life-changing impact this organization has on families across Rhode Island. My involvement has only deepened my respect for the scope, urgency, and effectiveness of their work.

For over 50 years, Sojourner House has supported more than 60,000 Rhode Islanders experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Today, their work is more critical than ever. Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in Rhode Island will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime, yet 95% of requests for shelter go unmet due to a lack of resources. This gap is not just a statistic. It represents individuals and families who are ready to leave dangerous situations but have nowhere safe to go.

Sojourner House has responded to this need with both urgency and innovation. In recent years, they have expanded their housing efforts, now owning or leasing nearly 200 units statewide to provide safe, stable, and permanent housing for survivors and their families. This approach, combining housing with comprehensive wraparound services, is widely recognized as the most effective way to help families achieve long-term safety and stability.

However, despite their success, the need continues to outpace available resources. Sojourner House receives over 80% of its funding from federal sources, many of which require matching funds. A state investment is essential to unlock these dollars and ensure continued access to life-saving services. This proposed \$500,000 allocation would generate an additional \$1.5 million in federal funding, maximizing impact while strengthening Rhode Island's response to domestic violence.

This is not only a moral imperative. It is a smart, strategic investment in the safety, stability, and long-term wellbeing of Rhode Island families. Other states have made sustained commitments to this work. It is time for Rhode Island to do the same.

I respectfully urge you to support this critical allocation and ensure that Sojourner House can continue to provide safety, dignity, and hope to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

**Joanne Chang**  
My Email

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Naomi Mark <nmark@sojournerri.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of S2848

You don't often get email from nmark@sojournerri.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Naomi Mark, Housing Development Manager at Sojourner House, and I reside at 624 Washington Street, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816. I write in strong support of Senator Murray's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House.

For 50 years, Sojourner House has supported over 60,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking across Rhode Island. Through housing, shelter, advocacy, and support services, the organization provides a critical pathway to safety and stability.

In my role, I work to expand housing for survivors, and I see every day how transformative stable housing can be. I also write as a survivor of domestic and financial violence. Before my experience, I lived an upper middle-class life proof that domestic violence does not discriminate. I have heard similar stories from women across professional fields, including civil service and law. We must remove the biases around who needs these resources and recognize that anyone may need them at any time.

**No one should ever have to choose between having a place to live and being safe.** Leaving a dangerous situation shouldn't mean facing homelessness.

Sojourner House serves some of the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. In 2025, 63% of clients were homeless at intake and 93% were low or extremely low-income. Last year, over 5,000 victims were served statewide. With more than 200 housing units, Sojourner House is leading the way in providing permanent supportive housing for survivors. With a \$500,000 allocation, they could house 70 more adults and 127 children—at a significantly lower cost than other models.

With over 80% of funding coming from federal sources that require matching funds, Rhode Island's support is essential to sustain and expand this work.

I respectfully urge you to support this investment in Sojourner House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Mark  
624 Washington Street  
Coventry, RI 02816  
Housing Development Manager

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** CLEMENTE, STEPHANIE N. <SCLEMENTE@AMICA.COM>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of S2848

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Chairman Louis DiPalma

5/5/2026

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 write in strong support of Senator Murray's Joint Resolution to Support Sojourner House.

As a board member of Sojourner House and an insurance executive here in Rhode Island, I have had the privilege of working closely with this organization for the past year and a half. As a mother of two, I can appreciate firsthand the critical impact Sojourner House makes on families throughout our community. Despite our best efforts to provide safe shelter for residents in Rhode Island, an alarming 95% of individuals who reach out to our hotline are unable to be accommodated because we lack sufficient shelter space. By securing this funding, Sojourner House will be able to intervene earlier and help more victims of domestic and sexual abuse, reducing the burden on the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) and saving the state considerable resources. I strongly urge you to support the bill and ensure these vital funds are allocated to Sojourner House so we can continue protecting and supporting those most in need.

For 50 years, Sojourner House, a Providence-based non-profit now serving all of Rhode Island, has supported over 60,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. They offer services like support groups, shelter, housing, sexual health advocacy, and emotional support. Last year, they assisted over 2,000 victims across the state.

Seven years ago, recognizing the need for affordable housing, Sojourner House began developing housing and now owns or leases over 175 units statewide, providing permanent supportive housing to victims. This is the most effective way to help families transition to safety.

Sojourner House is the only organization in Rhode Island creating affordable housing for victims. They receive over 80% of their funding from federal sources, most of which require matching funds. It's time for Rhode Island to provide matching funds to ensure Sojourner House can continue its vital work.

**This is a smart return on investment and is helping Rhode Island meet its low-income housing goals. Please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.**

**Stephanie N. Clemente, CPCU (she/her)**  
607-592-4414

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** chocolabgrl@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 2:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of S2848

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Chairman Louis DiPalma May 5, 2026

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

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For 50 years, Sojourner House, a Providence-based non-profit now serving all of Rhode Island, has supported over 60,000 victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking. They offer services like support groups, shelter, housing, sexual health advocacy, and emotional support.

As a lifelong Providence resident, I have seen the work that Sojourner does, and know countless families positively impacted by their staff.

Sojourner House is a profound asset to our Rhode Island community especially to those from some of the most vulnerable backgrounds. In 2025, nearly two thirds (63%) of their clients were homeless at the time of intake and 93% were considered low or extremely low-income. Overall, last year, they assisted over 5,000 victims across the state in nearly every city.

Seven years ago, recognizing the need for affordable housing, Sojourner House began developing housing and now owns or leases over 200 units statewide, providing permanent supportive housing to victims. This is the most effective way to help families transition to safety and Sojourner House does it effectively by stretching funds to ensure those most people and families are supported. For example, with the proposed \$500,000 allocation, they could house 70 more adults and 127 more children with a savings of nearly 93% of what it would cost another state entity to do the same.

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This is a smart return on investment and is helping Rhode Island meet its low-income housing goals. Please support this \$500,000 allocation for Sojourner House.

Thank you,

Amy Espinal  
73 Robin Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer