

2023 -- H 6172

LC002579

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 TO SOJOURNER HOUSE IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Cortvriend, Donovan, Spears, Carson, Speakman, Henries, and McGaw

Date Introduced: March 17, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Domestic abuse and sexual violence are public health issues of epidemic  
2 proportions in Rhode Island and throughout the United States, affecting approximately one in  
3 four women and one in seven men, with rates comparable or even higher among the LGBTQ+  
4 population; and

5 WHEREAS, The absence of safe, secure, affordable housing is one of the largest barriers  
6 for individuals who are experiencing abuse to flee from a dangerous situation; and

7 WHEREAS, The development of affordable housing in Rhode Island continues to lag  
8 behind the need for such resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The development of programs that provide safe, affordable, confidential  
10 housing to victims of abuse while joined with supportive services are still scarce, even at the  
11 national level; and

12 WHEREAS, Sojourner House in Rhode Island has developed a robust permanent  
13 supportive housing program that provides critical, life-saving interventions to families who have  
14 experienced abuse, and provides them with the support to rebuild their lives, including over 150  
15 units that are available statewide; and

16 WHEREAS, Sojourner House serves over 1,900 unduplicated clients a year throughout  
17 their programs, but the demand for services far exceeds their ability to meet the need; and

18 WHEREAS, Sojourner House seeks a partnership with the State of Rhode Island to  
19 increase capacity to provide additional permanent supportive housing to victims of abuse; now,

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
3 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of three million dollars  
4 (\$3,000,000) to support Sojourner House's permanent supportive housing development program,  
5 including, but not limited to, the acquisition and rehabilitation of residential buildings that will  
6 provide safe, secure housing to individuals and families who are fleeing from dangerous  
7 situations to rebuild their lives; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw  
8 his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from  
9 time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 TO SOJOURNER HOUSE IN RHODE  
ISLAND

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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$3,000,000 to Sojourner
- 2 House to support its permanent housing development program that provides safe, secure housing
- 3 to individuals and families fleeing from dangerous situations.

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