

2025 -- H 5323

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO SOJOURNER HOUSE IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Ajello, J. Brien, Kislak, Phillips, Cruz, Potter, J. Lombardi, Shallcross Smith, and Corvese

Date Introduced: February 05, 2025

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 in 33 cities and towns statewide; and

16           WHEREAS, Sojourner House serves almost 2,000 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 brings in approximately \$10,000,000 in federal grants to  
19 support its work and these grants require local matching funds; and

1           WHEREAS, Sojourner House seeks a partnership with the State of Rhode Island to secure  
2 matching funds for federal grants, ensuring continued support for permanent housing for abuse  
3 victims in Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
5 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2025-2026, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars  
6 (\$500,000) to support Sojourner House's permanent supportive housing development program,  
7 including, but not limited to, the acquisition and rehabilitation of residential buildings that will  
8 provide safe, secure housing to individuals and families who are fleeing from dangerous  
9 situations to rebuild their lives; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw  
10 his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from  
11 time to time be required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO SOJOURNER HOUSE IN RHODE  
ISLAND

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- 1           This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 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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