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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

JOINT RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, J. Brien, Phillips, Ajello, Shallcross Smith,  
Corvese, Cruz, J. Lombardi, Potter, and Diaz  
Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

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 even higher among the LGBTQ+ population,
- 4 underrepresented racial and ethnic populations, and people with disabilities; 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 domestic and sexual violence where
- 7 nearly all also face economic abuse; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Half of all women who are homeless report being homeless as a direct result
- 9 of domestic violence and nearly all homeless women face sexual and/or physical violence; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The development of affordable housing in Rhode Island continues to lag
- 11 behind the need for such resources; and
- 12 WHEREAS, The development of programs that provide safe, affordable, confidential
- 13 housing to victims of abuse while joined with supportive services are still scarce, even at the
- 14 national level; and
- 15 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has
- 16 attempted to decrease funding for supportive housing and impose more stringent qualifications
- 17 for those seeking housing support; and
- 18 WHEREAS, The revisions and suspension of funds previously allocated to supportive
- 19 housing could leave more than 1,000 Rhode Islanders currently in supportive housing at risk of

1 homelessness and more vulnerable due to pushes for economically unsustainable housing  
2 programs; and

3 WHEREAS, Sojourner House in Rhode Island has developed a robust permanent  
4 supportive housing program that provides critical, life-saving interventions to families who have  
5 experienced abuse, and provides them with the support to rebuild their lives, including over 150  
6 units that are available in 33 cities and towns statewide; and

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

10 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
11 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2026-2027, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars  
12 (\$500,000) to support Sojourner House's permanent supportive housing development program  
13 including, but not limited to, the acquisition and rehabilitation of residential buildings that will  
14 provide safe, secure housing to individuals and families who are fleeing from dangerous  
15 situations to rebuild their lives; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw  
16 his orders upon the general treasurer for payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from  
17 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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