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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SOJOURNER  
HOUSE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Murray, Tikoian, Thompson, Appollonio, Famiglietti, Britto,  
Raptakis, Mack, Vargas, and Gu  
Date Introduced: March 24, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Sojourner House was founded in 1976 by a group of Brown University  
2 students and community members concerned about what was then a silent epidemic: domestic  
3 violence; and  
4 WHEREAS, Sojourner House has operated for 50 years, serving over 60,000 Rhode  
5 Islanders; and  
6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking continue to affect  
7 individuals and families across Rhode Island, making the work of organizations like Sojourner  
8 House vital to the safety and well-being of our communities; and  
9 WHEREAS, For fifty years, Sojourner House has been a leader in Rhode Island's  
10 response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, helping tens of thousands of  
11 survivors and their families rebuild safe and stable lives; and  
12 WHEREAS, Sojourner House today is based in Providence and Woonsocket, and serves  
13 communities across the state experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human  
14 trafficking, including survivors and their children, providing wraparound services such as support  
15 groups, emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, sexual health  
16 advocacy, and emotional support; and  
17 WHEREAS, Through collaboration and partnership statewide with government agencies,  
18 nonprofit organizations, and key stakeholders in Rhode Island, Sojourner House works to develop  
19 solutions that work for promoting, advancing, and maintaining the safety and well-being of

1 survivors; and

2 WHEREAS, Housing remains the number one barrier for individuals fleeing violence to  
3 find safety. Sojourner House has increasingly focused on housing solutions for Rhode Islanders  
4 experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence, and human trafficking by developing a continuum  
5 of housing options, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and  
6 permanent supportive housing. The organization has specifically focused on permanent housing  
7 options in recent years by purchasing and leasing 197 units statewide allowing for the most  
8 effective intervention for survivors and their families transitioning out of dangerous and violent  
9 situations; and

10 WHEREAS, Sojourner House has over 70 dedicated staff across 4 offices who are  
11 experts on providing trauma-informed support to survivors at every step of the process and are  
12 engaged community members that are grounded in the specified needs of survivors in Rhode  
13 Island communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Celebrating and recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Sojourner House  
15 during this legislative session highlights and honors the legacy and ongoing work of advancing  
16 support for domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking survivors in Rhode Island by  
17 providing effective housing solutions and trauma-informed wraparound services; now, therefore  
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates the 50th  
20 Anniversary of Sojourner House of Rhode Island and extends its gratitude and deep appreciation  
21 for five decades of service to survivors and families across Rhode Island; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Vanessa Volz, CEO of Sojourner House of  
24 Rhode Island.

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