

Chairman Solomon and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Daria Phoebe Brashear; I live in the Edgewood section of Cranston. Today I write to you in support of House Bill 8127.

Several years ago in an attempt to get issues with our transit system under control, the position of chair of the RIPTA board was fixed to the head of RIDOT.

As advocates stated at the time, the issues with RIPTA were not that of mismanagement, but underfunding. The state-mandated efficiency study confirmed this.

With this information affirmed by outside study, now is the time to put RIPTA's direction back outside the direct purview of the head of an agency whose charge is typically interpreted as making sure highways flow for cars, most of which are single-occupant vehicles.

While I further believe that the RIPTA board needs to better reflect the community, especially riders of fixed-route transit in the state, I believe that this change is an important step in changing the governance of RIPTA to allow it to best serve riders.

Please support bills H8127 to right this recent misstep.

Sincerely,
Daria Phoebe Brashear