

Dear Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Jamayra Hernandez and I am a student at Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School. I am also a student advocate at Young Voices. I am testifying today to ask for your support in funding RIPTA by passing bills H5405, H5470, H5467, and H5468

Thousands of high school students like me depend on RIPTA to get to class every day. As a member of afterschool programs like Young Voices, I also rely on timely bus routes to get me home safely from downtown Providence nearly every weeknight.

I have used the RIPTA bus for school since September 2024 and I'm planning to use it until I get a car. The RIPTA buses are my only reliable source of transportation. My family doesn't have the time to bring me to school or home after school, especially since they have work very early in the day. This is why I believe that RIPTA should stay properly funded, because the majority of students just like me, use the bus every single day for local transportation. If these students don't have this source of transportation, how will they get to school? If they can't get to school, how will they get their education?

I am urging the committee to support the funding of RIPTA! We are relying on you to pass these bills H5405, H5470, H5467, and H5468, because they are the most necessary measures to support all of us.

Sincerely,  
Jamayra Hernandez

