

Dear Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Krissia and I am a student at Classical 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.

RIPTA is a convenient method of transportation that can be used by not only students, but the elderly, workers, and the less fortunate that may not be able to afford a car. In comparison to cars, the RIPTA buses are significantly more environmentally friendly and transport more people unlike cars. For my personal experiences with RIPTA, I have used it to get across Providence. Most days I take the bus to travel to school, and other days I use the bus to visit the mall with my friends. My appreciation for RIPTA grew with one particular instance. I had just gotten my new monthly bus pass at the start of October. A few days later I had lost it on my way back home. For the rest of October, I had to walk 1 mile in the frosty winter to school both at the beginning of the day and end. I would get to school with a runny nose and sore legs, which often caused me to feel fatigue throughout the school day and prevented me from performing to my fullest potential. Funding RIPTA is not only necessary, but a need for the people of Providence.

I would like to ask our representatives in the chamber tonight how our state plans to address this ongoing absenteeism crisis when students cannot even rely on a consistent bus service to get them to and from school.

I am urging the committee to support the funding of RIPTA! We are relying on you to pass bills H5405, H5470, H5467, and H5468.

Sincerely,
Krissia

