

Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP)
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May 21, 2025

Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the RI Organizing Project (RIOP) , I am writing in support of Representative Tanzi's bill H5470.

The RI Organizing Project (RIOP) has been working with bus riders for the past 10 years. Improving RIPTA's bus shelters and transit facilities is a top issue of concern for the bus riders we work with. H5470 will help provide the resources to upgrade bus shelters and bus terminals throughout the state. It will also help make the areas around bus shelters and bus facilities safer by improving access ramps, crosswalks ,and sidewalks.

RIOP works primarily with elderly and disabled bus riders. We hear countless stories of people having to wait in substandard bus shelters or navigate unsafe crosswalks and sidewalks to access the bus. Riders also tell us that they would like to see an expansion of bus service throughout the state.

Once again, I would like to ask for your support of H5470. It will help to improve the transit experience of current riders and attract new bus riders by improving and expanding RIPTA's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Raymond R Gagne
Director
RI Organizing Project