

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Ella, I live in Providence, and I am writing **in support of Rep. Alzate's bill H6020**. The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority(RIPTA) is facing a deficit of \$32.6 million dollars, this deficit is caused from years of underfunding and undervaluing our vital transit system that Rhode Islanders need. A well functioning, safe, and easy to use is the backbone of a thriving city. It is essential to many people getting to work, appointments, and family. It is also essential to cutting greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and meeting our climate goals.

This funding shortfall could lead to service cuts, fare hikes, or reduced operational hours, disproportionately affecting low-income communities and individuals who rely on public transit to live their daily lives. Ensuring that RIPTA's deficit is addressed is not just a matter of supporting an agency—it is a matter of supporting the people of Rhode Island and their ability to thrive.

I urge you to support H6020, to give public transit and the riders who rely on RIPTA a fighting chance, averting a financial catastrophe that would result in massive job losses and an economic death spiral for some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

Ella Kilpatrick Kotner  
8 Armenia St.  
Providence, RI