



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Committee chair,  
House Finance Committee  
Room 35, Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support HB 6020

Honorable members,

At Progreso Latino, our mission is to help Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities achieve greater self-sufficiency and socio-economic progress by providing transformational programs that support personal growth and social change. Progreso Latino writes in strong support of RIPTA and addressing the 32.6 million hole in it.

Public transportation plays a vital role in supporting low-income and immigrant communities providing mobility and reducing health disparities. RIPTA has always been a reflection of our community. It provides a sense of freedom and security to explore new areas, seek employment, and integrate into local life. It provides an affordable commute which provides access to employment opportunities. This provides a wider range of job accessibility which is crucial for securing and maintaining employment. Our Job Club at Progreso Latino sees many who seek employment, and a major concern has always been transportation. It also provides social mobility allowing individuals to pursue better job opportunities, attend school, or access services that might otherwise be out of reach. Many of our constituents are dependent on RIPTA as they seek assistance from our direct services. This can range from our adult education classes as many pursue their education, survivors of domestic violence as they attend our support group and receive assistance from our case workers, and our elderly program in which we foster a fun and friendly environment so many can feel part of a community. Our public transportation also helps us tackle food insecurity as many rely on our food pantry as we receive 400 people weekly. Together, it assists us in tackling the cycle of poverty as we help our low-income and immigrant families. It is also important to take into consideration the environmental benefits. Just like the R-Line we must provide a fully electric bus service. A study done by the Rhode Island Transportation Management, transportation has attested to 37.7% gross greenhouse emissions in 2021, the highest

with residential housing at 20.4%. It is important for our marginalized communities to have equitable access in which many can live, play, work, and learn in a sustainable environment.

Thank you to the House Finance Committee for your consideration of this impactful legislation.

Sincerely,

*Jonathan De Jesus*

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