

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Kenny Uong, I live in Providence, and I would like to express my support for Representative Alzate's Bill H6020. As you are likely aware, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) is dealing with a \$32.6 million budget deficit—an outcome of years of chronic underfunding and a failure to invest in the essential transit service that countless Rhode Islanders depend on every day.

As a rider who is fortunate to live within walking distance of the frequently operated R-Line on North Main Street in Providence, I am deeply concerned about riders losing access to transit service if reductions occur due to inaction. If left unaddressed, tens of thousands of RIPTA riders will be left stranded—forced into costly alternatives, lose their jobs, or cut off entirely from essential services like employment, healthcare, and education. Service cuts aren't just possible—they're imminent. This funding shortfall threatens to result in service cuts, fare increases, and reduced operational hours—devastating low-income communities and individuals who depend on public transit to navigate their daily lives. Addressing RIPTA's deficit is not merely about sustaining an agency; it's about supporting Rhode Islanders and ensuring that they have the opportunity to thrive.

I strongly urge the House Finance Committee to support H6020 and properly fund Rhode Island's public transit network. Failing to act now will have long-term negative consequences for generations to come. The future of equitable and accessible transit in Rhode Island depends on your leadership and support.

Thank you,

Kenny Uong
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