

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Committee members,

My name is Archana Ramanujam, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill H7127 funding the RIPTA budget and urging you to support the restoration of funding for RIPTA by undoing the service cuts. I take the bus multiple times a week to Brown's campus, where I am a PhD student. I also take it to health appointments, meetings off campus and social events. I rely on the service, especially in bad weather like we've had recently, and I have noticed it's dip in service after last fiscal year's budget cuts.

I am asking you to support this bill which provides level funding for RIPTA at its current reduced size, and implore you to support increased funding to reverse the devastating service cuts in 2025. High quality public transportation in Rhode Island should be a no-brainer, with our compact size and abundance of destinations, getting around the state by bus is something everyone should be able to do, and an obvious investment in a public good. It meets our climate goals as a state, and reduces congestion and air pollution so Rhode Islanders' health and future remain intact.

A recent report from the American Public Transit Authority confirmed what most of us already know: for every \$1 billion invested in public transportation, \$5 billion is generated in long-term economic value and supports jobs nationwide. That job support works out to \$3.1 billion in earned wages for every \$1 billion invested in public transit, according to the report. I encourage you to read the report: <https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA-Economic-Impact-of-Public-Transportation-022026.pdf>

I urge you to support the funding for RIPTA in the Governor's Budget, H7127 and to advocate for the restoration of funding that resulted in devastating service cuts this fall. Fully funding RIPTA is an investment that will give many returns: working class Rhode Islanders access to reliable and affordable transportation, economic growth and access to jobs and services, reduction in carbon emissions and traffic on the road, and so many more. Please support this investment to get Rhode Island back on track to create a 21st century transit system that works for everyone.

I urge you to support H7127 and increased funding for RIPTA.

Sincerely,

Archana Ramanujam
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Archana Ramanujam

recently released: [Climate Scholarship Needs Du Bois: Climate Crisis through the lens of Racial and Colonial Capitalism](#)

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