

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to support H7127 to close RIPTA's budget deficit and the \$5 additional in H8256 for funding for RIPTA in the FY27 budget.

I am a frequent user of RIPTA for commuting to my job at Brown, visiting family, travel (Block Island Ferry! Martha's Vineyard Ferry! Wickford! Newport!) and just going out to see a show or for cocktails or dinner with friends (no designated driver needed!).

I have lived in Providence for over 20 years, and in that time I am dismayed to see that funding for public transit is going down, when all social, environmental, and economic factors suggest that it should be just the opposite. A modern, well functioning state requires a modern, well functioning public transit system.

Thank you for listening. Please support H7127 and H8256!

Sincerely,

Jen Kennedy

Providence