

Chair Cortvriend and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Greetings. My name is Justin Jamal Baptista. I am a Providence resident. I am writing to express my support for H7127. RIPTA needs more funding to be of full service to the people of Rhode Island, not LESS. Less funding means less service to the people who depend upon these buses to travel when they cannot afford a Uber, a Lyft, or a taxi to get around. Less service means great harm to the communities of Rhode Island connected through RIPTA bus routes.

Ever since I was allowed to ride the bus on my own at a young age, I've been a RIPTA traveler. RIPTA have gotten me through school, work, and personal events in my life. It's what I depended upon for travel through COVID even when being around a number of people made me nervous at the time because I didn't have enough money to regularly pay for a Uber or Lyft. The cost of a Uber or Lyft ride piles up if you make a habit of using it over time and most people have their hands full paying the bills that have gotten more costly these days due to decisions made by the Trump administration.

RIPTA is what I use to get to Fox Point, my favorite neighborhood in Providence. Fox Point Public Library, a library near and dear to my heart since I was a kid, is one of my regular stops there. If these RIPTA service cuts proceed, Fox Point would be one of the areas most impacted by the changes. I care deeply about that. NOT for my sake but for sake of the neighborhood's residents like the elderly who reside in Fox Point Manor. RIPTA IS THEIR LIFELINE.

I hope you give these words consideration and focus on the people who benefit from RIPTA. Support for H7127 is an absolute necessity for the people of Rhode Island.

Justin Jamal Baptista

34 Hilltop Ave 02908

[401-895-7654](tel:401-895-7654)

suncore598@yahoo.com