

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Committee members,

My name is Katie Stewart, 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 recent service cuts.

RIPTA could be an incredible asset to our state and it deserves to be funded fully in order to promote community connection, access, and well-being.

I personally rely on RIPTA to get to work, which enables our family to get by with having one car. Not only does this save our family money, it also positively impacts the environment, which is an important personal value for us.

I ride alongside members of the Providence community who must have access to the bus in order to get where they are going. Teenagers ride to their schools, older people ride to doctor's appointments, and many have no other way to get to their jobs.

I have experienced first hand the frustration of delays and overcrowding which have greatly increased since last year's cuts. It's been a real disappointment to see the consequences of Rhode Island's disinvestment in such a key part of our state's transportation network.

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: access to reliable and affordable transportation for all Rhode Islanders, 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.

Please support H7127 and increased funding for RIPTA.

Sincerely,

Katie Stewart

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