

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Committee members,

My name is Lounay Oliver-Camacho and I am a student at Mount Pleasant High School. I am also a student advocate at Young Voices. 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.

Bill H7127 will impact me due to the commuter buses slowly disappearing. Mobility in Rhode Island is what it is special for. If our commuter buses were funded for more lines, way more people would take them. Everyday I see less returning people on 24 as I make my way home.

In the last couple of months I have visited New York and Boston which are places that have trains and metros. These forms of transportation were packed and had fast transportation rates. It makes me question the mobility of a city that's less populated than New York. In our daily lives we should always consider the people who are reducing carbon emissions and decreasing support in gas prices. We need to pass this bill because kids need to get to school on time and adults need to get to work on time to support their families.

I am in support of the full budgetary funding, including the \$13.8M in the Governor's FY2027 budget to close RIPTA budget deficit, and urge you to support Rep. Alzate's H8256 to increase funding by \$5 million to return RIPTA to September 2025 levels.

I am urging you to pass bill H7127. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,
Lounay Oliver-Camacho