

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Committee members,

My name is Oscar Diaz and I am a student at Classical 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.

This bill is important to me because I take the R Line everyday to get to school and to get back home. The buses are often late and poorly managed so these budget cuts need to get fixed. RIPTA doesn't have to be like this! With a better funded bus line, we can all have access to the transportation we need.

This bill should be passed because students deserve a well timed bus so that they can get to and from places on time. The increase in budget can also create more jobs if more buses are added.

This bill is useful because buses will be able to get to places on time with more frequent stops. There can be an increase in jobs and bus drivers can be paid more. RIPTA can also make more money because more people will be willing to take the bus now that it will be improved.

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,
Oscar Diaz