

Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

I write to you in support of fully funding the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority as included in the budget bill for this year.

Many older adults in Rhode Island depend on public transit to age in place with access to healthcare and other transportation needs. Getting to where you need or want to be is critical to reducing social isolation and maintaining independence and dignity.

At a certain age it may not be safe or feasible to own or drive a vehicle and RIPTA provides alternative transportation which can allow older Rhode Islanders to remain in their homes and age in place.

As you deliberate on this issue I urge you to consider the needs of our older population and fully fund RIPTA so older Rhode Islanders can live with secure transportation.

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