

Dear Chair Cortvriend and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Will Masse and I live in Warwick. 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. I rely on RIPTA to get to work and take the bus nearly every day. Public transportation is a critical part of my daily life and allows me to commute without needing to drive. Over the past year, transportation has gotten noticeably harder since the service cuts, with fewer options and less flexibility for riders who depend on the system.

As a regular transit rider, I see firsthand how important reliable bus service is for people across Rhode Island. RIPTA connects workers to their jobs, students to school, and residents to essential services. When service is reduced, it creates real barriers for people who depend on transit. Rhode Island is a compact state with many destinations close together, which makes strong public transportation an obvious investment in a public good.

I support the full budgetary funding included in the Governor's FY2027 budget, including the \$13.8 million allocation to close RIPTA's projected deficit. I also urge you to support Rep. Alzate's proposal ([H8256](#)) to increase funding so that service can return to the levels riders relied on before the cuts in September 2025.

A recent report from the American Public Transportation Association found that for every \$1 billion invested in public transportation, \$5 billion is generated in long-term economic value and supports jobs nationwide. Investments in transit benefit riders, businesses, and communities by improving access to employment, reducing congestion, and lowering emissions.

Fully funding RIPTA is an investment in Rhode Island's workers, economy, and environment. Reliable public transportation allows people like me to continue using transit to get to work and around our communities.

I urge you to support H7127 and H8256, and prioritize fully funding RIPTA this legislative season.

Sincerely,  
Will Masse  
Warwick, RI