



Rhode Island Organizing Project
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Providence, RI 02903
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TO: House Finance Committee
SUBJECT: SUPPORT (H8317) - \$5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA
Via Email: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Dear Chair Abney and Committee members,

My name is Raymond Gagne, and I am writing in my capacity as the Director of the RI Organizing Project (RIOP). I am writing in support of H8317, Rep Alzate's \$5 million allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

The Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP) has been working on transportation issues for the past ten years. RIOP works primarily with low-income elders and adults with disabilities who rely on RIPTA for their daily transportation needs. Last Fall's service cuts to RIPTA have made it more difficult for elders and adults with disabilities to get their medical appointments and access other critical services in a timely manner. The RIPTA service cuts have also made transportation more difficult for workers, students, and for vulnerable groups such as the homeless.

I ask for your support of H8317. Reversing RIPTA's service cuts is an investment that will improve the quality of life for all bus riders.

Sincerely,

Raymond R Gagne
Director
RI Organizing Project