

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Salvatore <warpdrivecowboy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2026 11:34 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT (H8317) - \$5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA

**Categories:** Red category

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Dear Chair Abney and Committee members,

My name is Salvatore, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill H8317, Representative Alzate's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

I've been using the bus for a little over 2 years now and it has helped me go from school to work and wherever I needed to go. Last year around September I believe they cut funding and downsized bus routes. Because of this I and many people I believe have been affected. Buses missing their stop and not showing up on time due to new and downsized routes and overcrowding. The buses are for the people that can't or won't drive and that usually means elderly or disabled or children. I know the buses may not seem important to people that drive, but they are important to me they are my only way to get around in Rhode Island and I believe others are the same

The service cuts have been devastating for tens of thousands of riders like me. A [report](#) released by the Save RIPTA coalition found that since the service cuts went into effect in September 2025:

- Ridership dropped 12.1% or about 125,000 trips by November
- Riders are burdened with less reliable and frequent service — restricting access to jobs, healthcare, education, and recreation.
- 30% of RIPTA riders are at risk of losing employment, 8% lost pay, and 3.6% lost their jobs directly
- RIPTA operators' working conditions have deteriorated
- RIPTA service has gotten 29% more expensive to operate per service hour

'Public Transit' is mentioned no less than 80 times in Rhode Island's own strategic plans for [economic development](#), [housing production](#), and [climate](#). However, the service cuts have left RIPTA too small and crippled to even meet the needs of its existing riders, let alone expand to strengthen our state's competitiveness and livability.

That's why I'm urging you to support H8317. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot meet the needs of a growing population that requires affordable and sustainable transportation, and RIPTA cannot grow to meet our climate, social justice, and economic goals.