

Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Reishuk and I live in Providence. Majority Leader Blazewski is my Representative. I write today in **SUPPORT of H8317** \$5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA, which is Rep Alzate's bill.

As a car-free Providence senior citizen, I ride RIPTA everywhere. But this budget allocation is important for all Ocean Staters, not only for those of us who ride the bus. RIPTA must remain a *transportation choice* for every RI family during these times of fuel price uncertainty. Frugal RI families know how to live on a budget, but they must have the public transit option for one or more family members if they are to balance that budget.

Let me express my gratitude to The Speaker, Leader Blazewski, Deputy Speaker Hull, Chair Abney and all of the House public transit bill sponsors. You see me, you understand the housing-transit connection, and you consistently work with our RI Transit Rider advocates to find permanent funding solutions for RIPTA. I trust you to restore RIPTA funding and to plan for the future of RI transit.

Honorable Committee members, please send H8317 on to the budget process with recommendation for passage.

Respectfully,
Val

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