

Dear Chairman Corvese and Committee members,

My name is Dylan Giles and I am writing in support of H5304 which would provide new sources of ridership and increased revenue for RIPTA. RIPTA moves tens of thousands of people each day, and with this proposal that number could be even higher.

As a car-free, transit dependent resident of Pawtucket, I am well aware of the benefits that transit commuting can provide, not just the peace of mind and cost savings of not having to maintain a vehicle, but the knowledge that making sustainable mobility choices is more important than ever.

Having access to transit passes through work is a powerful tool to create new riders, not just for commutes but for other trips as well. The convenience and peace of mind that you have unlimited bus rides right in your pocket leads to smarter trip choices and increased flexibility for workers who opt for the benefit.

Census data shows that nearly 3 in 4 commuters drive alone to get to work. This most inefficient means of commuting not only leads to increased emissions and congestion, but it also causes misguided land uses.

Look no further than Providence's Hospital District, a sea of massive parking lots surrounding a complex that is served by buses on the Downtown Transit Connector *every five minutes* on weekdays. It is inexcusable that Brown University Health, as Rhode Island's largest employer, does not offer its employees transit passes. Sure, not every hospital employee could rely on the bus, but many definitely could.

This is just one example, of the many large employers who, without question, could afford the very minor burden this places on them. Indeed, it will be good not only for their own employees, but a responsible thing to do as the largest institutions we have in Rhode Island. If even a fraction of the workforce of these employers opted to take RIPTA to work, it would have a measurable impact in ridership, parking demand, and congestion.

There are more challenging proposals in the pipeline for RIPTA this session, some that require difficult decisions for how we allocate the state's limited resources. This is not one of them.

Please support H5304 and give Rhode Island workers a better way to get to their jobs.

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