

Dear Chair Corvese and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for RI Bill H5304.

I rely on RIPTA because I am not a confident driver. For my own safety and the safety of others, I avoid driving whenever possible. RIPTA allows me to get to work reliably and stress-free, which in turn helps me be more productive in my research. As a Brown employee, I am grateful for free access to public transportation—it makes my job possible.

Beyond personal convenience, RIPTA fosters a sense of community. I often see the same people riding at the same hours, and many of them know each other. This reduces isolation and strengthens neighborhood bonds. RIPTA is also essential for those who would otherwise struggle to get around, including the elderly and disabled.

Without this bill, ridership would decline, leading to reduced service. This would be catastrophic—not only would it increase traffic but also would make it harder for many people to get to work, appointments, and daily activities. I would personally be affected, as a more complicated commute would impact my ability to do my job effectively.

Free and accessible public transportation benefits all of us, even car riders. It keeps our roads less congested, reduces stress, and ensures that everyone, regardless of income or ability, can move around the city. For these reasons, I urge you to support RI Bill H5304.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Juliana