

To the Chair Corvese and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Hello and good day. My name is Mel Rainsberger and I live on the East Side of Providence.

I'm blessed to live on a very good busy line (the #1), and I support bill H5304.

While I don't have a job that needs a bus pass, I wish we had a bus system that made that an option. I use the bus as much as I can, and yet all my rides in a month don't total the price of a bus pass.

We need a robust, comprehensive, well-funded system that makes transit passes seem like the deal of a lifetime. Imagine employers lobbying for deals on transit passes. There's a better, more resilient RI where the bus is such a popular option that employees don't have transit through work should be shopping for jobs in RI that provide a pass.

When the Washington Bridge costs \$450 million to repair, we should find the most economical and efficient way for employees to get to work. Buses and public transit are that deal. And our largest employers should be offering this to their work forces.

Thank you for your time,
Mel Rainsberger
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