

To Chair Corvese and Honorable Members of the Committee

I am writing to express my support for H5304.

An article in the [New York Times](#) in 2015 cited a Harvard study stating "...*commuting time has emerged as the single strongest factor in the odds of escaping poverty.*" Empowering Rhode Islanders access to reliable public transit is an opportunity to help people help themselves.

Funding RIPTA is not only the right thing to do, it's also the smart thing to do. For the state's budget, for RIPTA workers, and for hard-working impoverished Rhode Islanders doing their best to provide for their families. Requiring large employers to offer transit passes as a fringe benefit is an excellent place to start.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I reiterate my SUPPORT for H5304.

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Merissa Homer, Providence