

Dear Chair Corvese and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of H7363. I work in the Superintendent's Office at the Providence Public School District, which employs more than 3,600 professionals across the city. The District utilizes RIPTA as our primary transportation source for high school students, yet has chosen not to provide bus passes to its staff and faculty. It's not fair to those of us who rely on public transit or who opt for a greener commute to have to pay for bus passes while the district covers the cost of parking for all of its employees. When I take the bus both ways every day, it costs me \$20 per week in bus fares, or about \$80 per month--which is significantly more than the \$0 my co-workers pay for parking. By passing H7363, the House has the opportunity to put that \$80 back into the pockets of hard-working Rhode Island residents, which means more food on the table in our homes and more money back into our local economy. In addition to benefitting those of us who already use RIPTA, the Commuter Transportation Benefits Act would actually incentivize more people to take advantage of public transit. I have several colleagues who live locally but choose to drive to work because the cost of the gas they use is less expensive than the cost of bus fare. The current system incentivizes people to create more carbon emissions and traffic congestion, and we need to reverse that (imagine how much better the bridge traffic would be if we had fewer drivers and more bus riders!).

For these reasons, I support H7363, and I hope the House will too!

Thank you for your time,

Cherilyn Kadish

Providence Resident