

Chair Corvese and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is **William Masse**, I live in **Warwick, Rhode Island**, and I am writing in strong support of **H7363, the Commuter Transportation Benefits Act**.

I work for the City of Providence in the school department, and I ride RIPTA to work most days. While other City employees have access to transit benefits, those benefits are not extended to school department employees like me. This bill would give me access to those same commuter benefits, saving me money while allowing me to continue supporting a cleaner, greener Rhode Island through public transportation.

Public transit is essential to workforce participation, economic mobility, and environmental sustainability. According to data from RIPTA, approximately 40% of its annual trips are work-related. Large employers offering transit benefits would meaningfully increase ridership and fare revenue, helping stabilize funding without relying solely on gas taxes or uncertain federal sources.

Offering transit passes is also about fairness. Many employers subsidize parking but provide no comparable benefit for employees who choose to take the bus. That creates inequities for workers who do not drive and contributes to congestion — especially when roughly 70% of commuters drive alone.

If even a small percentage of employees at Rhode Island's largest employers chose transit because it was offered as a benefit, the impact on congestion, emissions, and household budgets would be substantial.

As someone who relies on public transportation most days to get to work, I urge you to support **H7363** and expand access to affordable commuting options for Rhode Island workers.

Sincerely,

William Masse

Warwick, Rhode Island