

Marygrace Heywood Larocque

From: Zach Fratus <zachfratus92@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 1:03 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: GOVERNOR MCKEE & RIPTA BOARD: Your Corruption is Stranding the Disabled Community

You don't often get email from zachfratus92@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Governor McKee and the RIPTA Board of Directors,

My name is Zachary Fratus. I am 33 years old, a West Warwick resident, and I am legally blind and hearing impaired. I do not drive. I am writing this because I am done being polite while you treat my independence like a line item you can just delete to save a buck. This administration is an absolute disgrace, and it's time you heard it from someone who actually has to live with your failures.

Governor McKee, you love to talk about "momentum," but for people like me, that's just a buzzword for abandonment. By gutting the Route 23 (Arctic/Crompton) weekend and holiday service to save a pathetic 0.05% of the state budget, you have effectively put me under house arrest on Sundays. I shouldn't have to beg my parents for a ride like a teenager because you'd rather save a few pennies than ensure a disabled citizen can get to work or the store. It is a total pylon move, and it's bullcrap.

What makes this a bloodbath is your rank hypocrisy. You claim there is "no money" for RIPTA, yet you personally intervened to steer a \$5 million contract to the ILO Group—a move the Attorney General called "indefensible." You found \$5 million for your politically connected cronies, but you can't find \$5 million to keep my bus running? You've got money for insiders, but only "efficiency studies" and service cuts for the rest of us.

Then we have the Washington Bridge—a \$430 million monument to your total incompetence. You ignored the warnings, failed the maintenance, and now the taxpayers are footing the bill for a bridge that literally fell apart. You have hundreds of millions for your own negligence, yet you treat the Route 23 and the 45 other routes you've gutted like they are optional luxuries. You are literally destroying the Ocean State's ability to move to cover for your own mismanagement.

To the RIPTA Board—James Lombardi, James Leach, Patrick Crowley, Marcy Reyes, Heather Schey, Vincent Masino, and Bernard Georges: You sat in that room and voted for these cuts. You are complicit in stranding the disabled community. You've slashed 22% of Sunday service across the board and watched ridership tank by 14% because you've made the system unreliable. You aren't "right-sizing" anything; you're executing a deliberate attack on the people who need public transit the most.

I want to specifically highlight Normand Benoit, the only person on that board with enough grit to vote against these cuts. The rest of you should be ashamed. You sit in your offices in Providence, surrounded by drivers and staffers, while I'm stuck waiting for a bus that you erased from the map. You have no idea what it's like to be a rider in this state because you don't care enough to try.

I am a voter, and I am watching. Your approval ratings are in the toilet because Rhode Islanders are sick of the scandals, the crumbling bridges, and the empty bus stops. We see the no-bid contracts and the "momentum" that only seems to benefit your donors. You are failing the very people you were elected to protect, and I am done being quiet about it.

I am demanding that you take personal responsibility for this disaster. Governor, you need to veto any budget that doesn't fully fund the \$5 million restoration request. Board members, you need to immediately reinstate the Route 23 weekend and holiday service. Stop treating the disabled community like we are a burden on your budget while you treat your friends like they're on a scholarship.

If you can't manage a bus schedule and a bridge at the same time, you shouldn't be in office. You are trapping citizens in their homes while you play accountant with our lives. Fix the RIPTA, fix the bridge, and stop treating this state like your personal piggy bank for consultants and cronies.

I expect a response that isn't a canned piece of bullcrap from a press secretary. I want to know when my bus is coming back, and I want to know why your friends' contracts were more important than my freedom.

Sincerely,

Zachary Fratus

West Warwick, RI