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From: Archana Ramanujam <a.ramanujam@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2825) - $5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA

> You don't often get email from a.ramanujam@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Archana Ramanujam, I live in Providence and I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's $5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

I use RIPTA multiple times a week to get to work, health appointments and social events. I rely on it, as my household has only one car, and I love using it. I often have to go to areas that have limited parking, making the bus the best choice. Additionally, RIPTA is usually less expensive and a greener way to get around. It reduces congestion, relieves the stress of driving, and makes streets safer for everyone by reducing cars and reckless drivers on the road. They also meet the city's climate goals by reducing carbon emissions.

The service cuts have been terrible for riders like me, as well as the city environment. A report released by the Save RIPTA coalition found that since the service cuts went into effect in September 2025:

- Ridership dropped 12.1% or about 125,000 trips by November
- Riders are burdened with less reliable and frequent service — restricting access to jobs, healthcare, education, and recreation.
- 30% of RIPTA riders are at risk of losing employment, 8% lost pay, and 3.6% lost their jobs directly
- RIPTA operators' working conditions have deteriorated
- RIPTA service has gotten 29% more expensive to operate per service hour

'Public Transit' is mentioned no less than 80 times in Rhode Island's own strategic plans for economic development, housing production, and climate. However, the service cuts have left RIPTA too small and crippled to even meet the needs of its existing riders, let alone expand to strengthen our state's competitiveness and livability.

That's why I'm urging you to support S2825. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot meet the needs of a growing population that requires affordable and sustainable transportation, and RIPTA cannot grow to meet our climate, social justice, and economic goals.

Sincerely,

Archana Ramanujam
156 9th St, Providence RI

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.