

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Calvin Woodruff, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Senator McKenney's \$5 allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

The RIPTA service cuts have made travelling to essential locations impossible without spending increasingly high fees on Uber and Lyft. Often, I'll be stuck miles away from my home, waiting for a bus that no longer comes to its usual stops. Or, I'll spend an extra hour waiting for a bus which has had its route times slashed.

These cuts are harming thousands of Rhode Islanders like myself. 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,

Calvin Woodruff
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