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From: Cedric Priebe <cedric_priebe@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 7:31 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: My Support for S2825 - Save RIPTA

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,
My name is Cedric J. Priebe III, MD, I live in Cranston, and I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

My family and I frequently use RIPTA (Route #4) to ride into Providence to enjoy restaurants or other activities. My teenage sons frequently ride RIPTA home from their school in East Providence. All these trips have become less convenient with the reduced schedules on several routes.

In my opinion, Rhode Island's investment in public transit and bicycle infrastructure is more important than our investments in roads and highways.

The RIPTA service cuts have been devastating for tens of thousands of riders like me. 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,
Cedric J. Priebe III, MD
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