

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Charlotte, I live in Providence, I am a student at classical, as well as a youth advocate with Young Voices, and I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

Before many of these service cuts, I was able to wake up at 6 and be able to get ready and still make my bus. However, after the service cuts began going into effect, I have had to reset all of my previous schedule, I have to go to sleep earlier so I can wake up for my alarm on time. I have to wake up at 5:30 rather than six so I can make it to my bus stop without having to rush and maybe even miss my bus. I can't miss the first bus or I won't get to school till 8 rather than at seven as the lack of continuous buses makes buses that were already busy, so busy that they end up having to pass you because they are so full. And if my parents aren't home or able to give me a ride so I'm not late, I will be subjected to walking to my school on roads that are extremely dangerous because even walking is quicker than waiting for the next bus to come. However, walking to school prevents me from being able to get breakfast from school as I still don't get there on time enough for breakfast.

In addition, these cuts have not only affected me, but have affected hundreds of thousands of other riders throughout RI, preventing them from being able to get to work on time and making them receive punishments from their workplaces for continuously not being on time to work, sometimes even getting them fired. And within the current economic state we are in, workers getting fired for not being able to get to work on time could lead them to not make enough money to supply their families with the necessities that they need.

Because of these drastic consequences that stemmed from these service cuts, it would be extremely beneficial to put this bill into effect. Because with the bill, this deficit on RIPTA will be amended, allowing for Ripta to return to the previous state of bus frequencies before all these service cuts, as well as making it so people are able to be more on time to things and not receive consequences from being late because of these service cuts anymore.

That's why I'm urging you to support S2825. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot meet the needs of the people of Rhode Island, or anyone who rides with RIPTA without starting with this bill that entails part of the effort to reverse the damage that has been done over the years to RIPTA.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Coxmoore
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