

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Chrys Santos. I am a Youth Advocate with Young Voices. I live in Providence, Rhode Island, and I am writing in support of Bill S2825 Senate. This bill would allocate five million dollars to fund RIPTA's service cuts.

As someone who goes to school in a different city, RIPTA is my main source of transportation every day. Due to these cuts, I've seen big changes in the bussing system. I see the most change in the common buses. In my experience, buses like 20, 22, 1, and 50 are always late. If not, then they just don't show up at all. This is difficult due to my tight schedule. Recently, I've had to experience waiting for the bus for hours after my extracurriculars in the middle of nowhere pawtucket. To fund RIPTA services would make my everyday life a little bit easier. My family is unable to transport me or pay for transport and, sadly, it seems like the bus is no longer a reliable, safe option either.

This is why I'm urging you today to support Bill S2825. Without the adequate funds for RIPTA services, students like me struggle to get an education and live fulfilling lives. 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,  
Chrys Santos