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From: Courtney <claunchie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 11:30 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

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

A booming local economy is only possible with public transportation. I use RIPTA to access local businesses, visit PPAC for shows, Roger Williams park and zoo to appreciate nature, and to enjoy our local restaurants all around Providence. This isn't possible with my car, and it usually costs more money and more time trying to navigate finding parking. RIPTA allows me to access and engage with the best parts of Providence and Rhode Island.

The 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,

Courtney Claunch
Providence, 02908