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From: Ethan Caya <ethancaya@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 12:39 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S2825) - \$5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA

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Senate Chair DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Bill S2825 which allocates \$5M for Ripta. The service cuts that happened to RIPTA last year have had a terrible impact on the people of Rhode Island and it has impacted me too. There is a report by the Save RIPTA coalition that found ridership dropped by 12.1% last year after the cuts and 3.6% of people have directly lost their job as a result of the service cuts.

Luckily my employment was not affected by the cuts, but it still affects my daily routines. Before the service cut the route that ran by my house operated every 30 minutes now it's more like every 60 minutes. I used to take the bus downtown several times per week to visit cafes and other local businesses but now the bus is just too inconvenient so I stay home instead. I'm sure there are many others with similar stories. Whether it's lost business or lost jobs, these service cuts are having a bad impact on our state and local economies.

I'd like to wrap up by noting 'public transit' is mentioned 80 times in RI's strategic plans for economic development, housing production, and climate but the state has failed to give more funding to hit these goals. Instead the governor's budget actively swept the rug out from under RIPTA, its employees, and its riders. RIPTA is a well run public agency that in the state mandated efficiency study that came out last year scored on par or better with its peer transit agencies despite serving a much larger area than its peers.

That is why I write to you in support of Bill S2835 which allocates \$5M for RIPTA.

Ethan Caya

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