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**From:** Jeanelle Wheeler <jeanellewheeler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** SUPPORT (S2825) - \$5 million Budget Allocation for RIPTA

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee Members,

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

I am a daily RIPTA rider who does not have a car. I rely on over 20 routes each month to get to work, see friends, go to doctor and dentist appointments, and live all aspects of my life. Since the cuts have been in place, my commute times have greatly increased. After work, I have to walk a mile now to get a different bus home from work since Route 4's frequency was greatly reduced. According to a report by the Save RIPTA coalition, about 30% of riders are at risk of losing employment due to these cuts and overall ridership is down - there have been 125,000 fewer trips since November.

The reduced frequency has also affected my ability to make connections to other buses, further increasing my commute time and making it sometimes impossible to rely on the bus. I have noticed some buses, including the R Line, are now so full that the bus is at standing room only. I have had friends tell me that the reduced frequency (especially in the evenings and on weeknights) of some routes makes it not possible for them to go to music rehearsals or see their friends.

As I've said to many people: wounding RIPTA wounds all of Rhode Island. If this state cares about Rhode Islanders, we need to fund public transit as a public service. We need transportation that is affordable and sustainable.

I urge you to support S2825. We need to reverse RIPTA's devastating service cuts.

Sincerely,  
Jeanelle Wheeler  
3 Thompson Street, Providence, RI 02906