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**From:** Katie Stewart <stewart.kathryn.r@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2026 2:33 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 Katie Stewart, 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 regular RIPTA rider, primarily on the #1 route, and I have experienced first hand the deteriorating effects created by the service cuts last year. Bus times are much less reliable and the buses are much more overcrowded than they once were. The stress and pressure of these conditions is difficult for riders and drivers alike.

Our Rhode Island community deserves better. I was particularly struck by a detail in a [report](#) released by the Save RIPTA coalition that found that since the service cuts went into effect in September 2025, 30% of RIPTA riders are at risk of losing employment, 8% lost pay, and 3.6% lost their jobs directly.

In a time of economic uncertainty in a state with a very high cost of living, this outcome is simply not acceptable. A robust and well-funded, clean and reliable bus system is necessary to the economic and physical well-being of our community.

I urge you to support S2825. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot provide affordable and sustainable transportation to the Rhode Islanders who need it.

All the best,  
Katie Stewart  
15 Hart Street, Providence