

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Lounay Oliver-Camacho, 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 a student in the Providence public school district, I use RIPTA as my main source of transportation everyday. From the cuts I have seen drastic linear changes. It started with just the bus being late for seconds. It then transitioned to there being no bus at all. I have taken most buses from bus "R line" to "24L". I see the most change in the common buses. In my experience Buses like 55, 92, and 50 are religiously late. This pushes my daily schedule then 10 minutes later assuming the world is not moving around me and the bus driver doesn't go past me that day. To fund RIPTA services would make my everyday life a little bit easier. As I get older mobility has become a necessity for food, money, and most importantly education. The city bus has ceased to be my only affordable means of transportation to meet my needs as of now. With the prices of everything rising to meet the population and economic needs a city requires a stable form of mobility.

This is why I'm urging you today to support Bill S2825. Without the adequate funds for RIPTA services. RIPTA cannot continue to grow generationally. We need RIPTA. One supporter is one less person struggling to get around the city.

Sincerely,

Lounay Oliver - Camacho
Mount Pleasant High School