



The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

April 2, 2026

RE: SUPPORT (S2825) - \$5M Budget Allocation for RIPTA

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

Neighbors Welcome! Rhode Island (“Neighbors Welcome”) is a network of neighbors advocating for more homes in Rhode Island. Our goal is to promote strong and sustainable housing production so that residents across the state, at every stage of life, have housing options that meet their needs.

We are writing today to urge the General Assembly to not only fund the gap in the RIPTA budget to restore bus services across the state, but to increase funding with a \$5M budget allocation.

As Rhode Island is grappling with the negative impacts of the housing crisis on communities across the state, it cannot be forgotten that to succeed in reaching the state’s housing goals residents in every community need to be connected and served by a robust transit system. **In the Governor’s Housing 2030 plan the municipal housing production goals are tied to two conditions: high concentration of jobs and transit access.** “Transit” is mentioned 31 times in the housing plan.

Building new homes near transit and jobs is one of the best ways to improve quality of life for our residents, reduce commute times, minimize dependence on cars, and lower costs of living. Not only does this growth strategy support the success of reaching our housing goals, it advances our economic development and climate resiliency goals.

We want to thank the sponsor Senator McKenney, the Chair and Committee for considering this critical investment in our future and urge you to support S2825.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Brown".

Kristina Brown | Executive Director | Neighbors Welcome! Rhode Island