

Marygrace Heywood Larocque

From: Paul Aste <paulaste96@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:44 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 Paul Aste, and I live in Ward 13 in Providence. I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

The RIPTA cuts were immediately noticeable on my commute to work. Suddenly, buses that were normally on time like the 31 were 5, 10, even 15 minutes late, and I had to take earlier and earlier buses to guarantee that I would be at work on time. In the evenings, I am often stuck at Kennedy Plaza for up to half an hour waiting for a transfer. As you can imagine, this was particularly brutal during the winter, and especially during the three week stretch of sub-freezing temperatures. The bus stops nearest my home do not have shelters, and Kennedy Plaza has been in a state of increasing decrepitude that is frankly embarrassing and appalling. Many KP shelters have broken glass and the wind whistles through them. Some of the "new" bus update screens are already broken. During the winter, the stops nearest me were not even shoveled and I was forced to stand in the street for weeks waiting for buses that were almost always late.

I say all this as a fairly young and able-bodied person, for whom standing in the cold, navigating delays, and traversing snow was deeply unpleasant but manageable. I can only imagine what it meant for my less abled neighbors.

RIPTA is my way of getting around Providence and Rhode Island. I do not have a car and I cannot afford one. I implore you to support Bill S2825. Rhode Islanders deserve to be able to get around the state for work and leisure without a car. The climate crisis and fiascos like Washington Bridge make this a moral, environmental, and economic imperative.

Sincerely,
Paul Aste
16 Carol Court #1, Providence