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From: Prateek Joshi <prateekj807@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 12:48 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 Prateek Joshi, 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 don't have a car. I rely on RIPTA every day for essential needs like groceries and healthcare appointments. I moved to Providence for its density and ease of transportation, but this city has been decimated by the RIPTA cuts. Hasbro already left our city due to its poor public transit. Re-investing in transit will boost our economy and create more economic opportunities so that Providence can compete with larger cities like Boston. It will also help cut down on parking needs and therefore support housing expansion and affordability.

The service cuts have been devastating for tens of thousands of riders like me. A [report](#) released by the Save RIPTA coalition found that since the service cuts went into effect in September 2025:

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- Ridership
- dropped 12.1% or about 125,000 trips by November
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- Riders
- are burdened with less reliable and frequent service — restricting access to jobs, healthcare, education, and recreation.
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- 30%
- of RIPTA riders are at risk of losing employment, 8% lost pay, and 3.6% lost their jobs directly
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- RIPTA
- operators' working conditions have deteriorated
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- RIPTA
- service has gotten 29% more expensive to operate per service hour
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'Public Transit' is mentioned no less than 80 times in Rhode Island's own strategic plans for [economic development](#), [housing production](#), and [climate](#). However, the service cuts have left RIPTA too small and crippled to even meet the needs of its existing riders, let alone expand to strengthen our state's competitiveness and livability.

That's why I'm urging you to support S2825. Without reversing RIPTA's devastating service cuts, RIPTA cannot meet the needs of a growing population that requires affordable and sustainable transportation, and RIPTA cannot grow to meet our climate, social justice, and economic goals.

Sincerely,

Prateek Joshi

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