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From: Ryan Atkinson <sendryanafile@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Written support of Bill S2825

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Ryan Atkinson, I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

The bus system in providence makes it easy for me to go downtown for various activities like: shopping, eating out, seeing shows at PPAC, and attending seasonal events like the holiday market. This is especially true during the winter. Parking downtown is a challenge, with many lots being overpriced. The RIPTA bus helps the people of RI get around for things they need in life, while also stimulating our local economy.

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,

Ryan Atkinson
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