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From: Scott Callas <scott.callas@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 11:57 AM
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 Scott Callas. I live in Providence, and I am writing in support of Bill S2825, Sen. McKenney's \$5M allocation to reverse RIPTA's service cuts.

In the North End, RIPTA's service frequency and reliability were already insufficient before the cuts. The public transportation situation in an area of this density is now frankly embarrassing. I am privileged to afford a car, which allows me to get around in a reasonable time. When I run errands, I regularly pass by folks waiting at a bus stop who are still there on my way back.

Think about that: some of my neighbors spend more time waiting for a bus than it takes me to get a haircut, do some shopping, and pick up lunch. What are we saying as a society about those who rely on public transit if we find that acceptable?

I have lived in areas with functional and reliable public transportation, like Montreal and the Boston area. It can be done if we choose to care. We deserve the ability to choose how we get around, not be obligated by the government to be indebted to a bank with a car loan, fund oil companies for gas, and pay exorbitant premiums to an insurance company.

Around Providence, common complaints revolve around traffic, noise pollution, street parking, and crumbling infrastructure. Following the service cuts in September 2025 and the resulting drop of over 12% in ridership, do you think any of that has improved? Or did the state government consciously make another short-sighted budget choice that will worsen all of these in the long run?

This is why I urge you to support S2825. We must stop the cycle of borrowing from the future in this state. We must reverse the devastating cuts to RIPTA so it can provide affordable and sustainable transportation and support our other goals in housing, the climate, social justice, and the economy.

Sincerely,
Scott Callas
74 Yorkshire St, Providence, RI