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From: Nick Rutter <nickrutter0@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 2:35 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: SUPPORT (S3084) - Rideshare Sales Tax Reallocation to RIPTA's Paratransit Programs

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is Nick Rutter, I live in Smithfield, and I am writing in support of Senator Britto's Bill S3084, which would restrict the current 7% sales tax on Uber and Lyft rides to fund RIPTA's Paratransit and Ride Anywhere programs.

I have previously worked in direct care of adults with disabilities for Action Based Enterprises in Woonsocket, and RIPTA was instrumental in providing our clients transportation to and from not only our vocational program and home, but also to work sites and activities. While this allowed staff and caretakers flexibility in allocating transportation resources, more crucially it also provided a sense of community and independence to the populations we serve.

RIPTA's response to the oversight of these cuts to the disabled population has been remarkable, innovating services and meeting the demand from the loss of fixed service to populations with mobility challenges. This measure to earmark funds from rideshare services serves to appreciate and sustain RIPTA's actions to continue to provide and expand paratransit service without the liability and expense of third-party contractors or use of personal vehicles.

If UBER and Lyft are to do business in our state, their impact on transit usage needs to be mitigated through allocation of the sales tax to serve a population it has taken a necessary service away from and cannot replace.

I urge you to support S3084, to increase revenue for RIPTA, giving Rhode Island residents access to affordable transportation and providing sustainable funding for public transit to thrive.

Sincerely,

Nick Rutter
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