



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Providence
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December 19, 2016

Wayne M. Kezirian, Esq.
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
705 Elmwood Ave.
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Mr. Kezirian:

We write as Catholic pastors concerned with an issue currently before you, your board, and other state officials. We are aware that beginning January 1st, 2017 that fare increases will go into effect for many low income senior citizens and people with disabilities. We feel compelled to add our voice to those calling for this policy to be rescinded. We are aware that RIPTA and many other state programs face serious funding shortages; however it appears that routes will not be changed or curtailed and therefore the buses will run regardless of this increase.

We ask that the RIPTA Board, the Governor's office, and House and Senate leadership review this policy once again to avoid harming some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens. Although we are not accountants or legislators, we are pastors who encounter many of those people who will suffer from this increase. Their needs and concerns are valid and we believe call for further review.

Know that you and your board members as well as all elected officials are in our prayers.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'The S. Toling'.

Bishop of Providence

Cc: The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Speaker Nicholas Mattiello
Senate President Teresa Paiva-Weed