

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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Dear Neighbor:

Outsiders writing about busing in Boston have drawn comparisons between our situation today and the busing controversies which have hit dozens of cities during the past twenty years.

We have seen ourselves criticized and even ridiculed by Judges who drive in from the suburbs to juggle our daily lives and *New York Times'* columnists who fly into Boston for six hours to write "in depth" studies of the mood and people of South Boston.

But all of them have missed the mark because they talk about busing in the City of Boston, never realizing that Boston isn't really a city in the sense they understand the word. Rather it is a collection of small neighborhoods made up of the children of people who grew up there and parents of children who will grow up there.

The "neighborhood" is something of invaluable importance that most American cities have lost. And only people like us who have been born in a community like South Boston, grown up here and worked here really understand what it means. We don't want South Boston to become like a neighborhood in New York . . . where people don't know the family upstairs, downstairs or over the back fence.

The scenes we see everyday . . . women walking into a store to be greeted by name. Men stopping on the street for a chat and children running to neighboring apartments to get up a team . . . these are things that are important to us. And the first step to taking these things away, is to take away our schools.

"But what do you do when your community is threatened?"

This is the question we ask ourselves and each other every day. And the answer isn't easy.

We know, however, that violence only plays into the hands of those who want to convince the world that this question is strictly a race issue. It isn't; and that's what we have to make people realize.

The question of busing came up on Congress eleven times during my first term. Each time I voted against forced busing. But it didn't stop the buses because, by simply mentioning the word "unconstitutional", a federal judge can ignore your will as expressed through your elected representatives.

And this brings us to the *only* means by which we can stop forced busing: a Constitutional Amendment. (That is, of course, unless the Supreme Court rules differently on our case in Boston than they have in others.)

During the last term, a Constitutional Amendment was introduced and referred to committee . . . where it died.

A few days ago, at the beginning of the new term, the Busing Amendment was reintroduced. But already it seems apparent that the Judiciary Committee will not act. In this situation the only means for bringing a measure to a vote is to introduce a petition and obtain signatures of a majority of Congressmen.

While parliamentary procedure requires us to wait 30 days before filing such a petition, I can assure you that the petition will be filed. However, a similar petition filed in the last term failed (by nearly one hundred names) to gain the required majority of two hundred and eighteen.

While I personally started lobbying the newly elected members when they gathered in Washington in December to help us reorganize the Congress, and while I am personally committed to continue my efforts in support of this critical petition; I refuse to play any games with you on this matter. We don't know if we can get enough signatures; but we're going to continue trying our hardest.

Because, as all of us in South Boston must show by our example during this crisis, the issue is not one of race but one of neighborhood.

Sincerely,



# MASSACHUSETTS 9th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POSTAL PATRON — LOCAL

M.C.  
*Joe Moakley*

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JOE MOAKLEY'S NEXT SERVICE VISIT

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b>SOUTH BOSTON</b>	Saturday, February 8th	9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.	South Boston Congressional Office 149 A Dorchester Street
<b>DORCHESTER</b>	Saturday, February 22nd	9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.	Uphams Corner Post Office 636 Columbia Road
<b>ROXBURY</b>	Saturday, February 22nd	12:00 noon — 2:30 p.m.	Roxbury Congressional Office 70 Warren Street
<b>NORTH END</b>	Saturday, February 22nd	3:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.	Hanover Street Post Office 217 Hanover Street
<b>WEST ROXBURY</b>	Saturday, March 8th	9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.	West Roxbury Post Office 1970 Centre Street
<b>ROSLINDALE</b>	Saturday, March 8th	12:00 noon — 2:30 p.m.	Roslindale Post Office 16 Cummings Highway
<b>JAMAICA PLAIN</b>	Saturday, March 8th	3:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.	Jamaica Plain Post Office 655 Centre Street

While the daily business of Congress keeps me in Washington most of the time, I come home almost every week-end to listen to your concerns, share your views, and discuss ways I can be of service in any problems you have with the Federal Government.

That is why I schedule office hours in every community in our District several times a year. This Saturday, I'll be home in South Boston. If you'd like to drop in to talk something over with me or just to say hello, I'd enjoy seeing you.

We'll be at our South Boston Congressional Office at 149A Dorchester Street between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Saturday, February 8th. I used to practice law at that location but closed my practice when I became your Congressman.

If Saturday isn't convenient for you, our office is open every working day to be of service to you. The office runs under the supervision of my District Manager, Roger Kineavy, who in just two years has helped solve problems for more than one thousand South Boston families who have turned to us for assistance in cutting through "red tape".

So if we can be of service, stop in Saturday or visit our South Boston office any other day that's convenient for you.

Again, the office is at 149A Dorchester Street or call Roger at 223-5253.



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