



HON. LOUISE DAY HICKS

## Boston City Council

NEW CITY HALL  
100 CITY HALL SQUARE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02201

December 12, 1975

Honorable John J. Moakley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moakley:

As you are aware, there is a great deal of confusion surrounding the legality of the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. By placing South Boston High School under receivership, thereby stripping the duly-elected Boston School Committee of all statutory powers, Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity has only intensified the confusion not only among constitutional lawyers and historians but among laymen.

I feel it is imperative at this time that the Congress take ~~immediate steps to clarify~~ the whole issue of due process of law for all as guaranteed in the Fourteenth Amendment, and request that you, as a Congressional representative of the City of Boston, co-sponsor legislation with your colleagues from the Massachusetts delegation to establish a special blue-ribbon commission composed of Constitutional lawyers and historians empowered to investigate and report on the circumstances surrounding the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

I feel Congress has no greater priority at this time than to lift the veil of confusion surrounding the Fourteenth Amendment so that due process of law for all may continue unencumbered by doubt on the part of those it was designed to protect.

Sincerely,

*Louise Day Hicks*  
Louise Day Hicks

LDH/ke