

November 4, 1975

[REDACTED]
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter in which you expressed your opposition to busing.

As you know, I share your feelings of opposition to forced busing to achieve quality education. I believe busing is a bankrupt policy whose time never was. As we have so sadly witnessed in our Boston public schools, many young white students have been enrolled in private or parochial schools or are in no schools at all, but rather on the street. By attempting to bus the students of Boston, we are actually resegregating them.

I am working very hard in Washington to see that a constitutional amendment to prohibit forced busing is adopted. Please know that I will never give up my efforts to preserve our neighborhood schools, thereby ensuring a safe and good education for all young people.

Thanks again for writing to me. I hope that you will contact me again if I can ever be of some service to you.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress

Westwood, Mass. 02090
October 30, 1975.

Mr. Joseph Moakley
House of Representatives
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moakley:

I am writing to you in opposition to forced busing. There are many reasons why I am opposed to it. The reasons are listed below.

First: The most important reason is that it takes away the right of the parent to choose the school for his or her child. This certainly is a basic right of any parent.

Second: It is a waste of the taxpayers' money to send a child to a distant school when there is one within walking distance of his home. Costs of gasoline, maintenance and salary of the driver are going up constantly.

Third: It is a waste of the precious and expensive gasoline that the government keeps telling the people to conserve.

Fourth: It is unnecessarily jeopardizing the safety of the child. Many times I have seen cars drive by a school bus that has stopped. Children could easily be hit by a careless driver. Another very important safety hazard is the area to which the child is being sent to school. Parts of Roxbury and Dorchester are unsafe for adults to venture into, never mind sending a child there. Schools are not safe inside for the child either. I know this for a fact for I have taught school in Boston for 24 years.

Fifth: Sending a child to a particular school with children of a certain color of skin does not necessarily ensure that the child will learn any better than he would have in his neighborhood school. The child must have the desire and encouragement to learn.

Sixth: The complaint that all children do not receive quality education is unfounded. All teachers have to meet the same requirements. Facilities in many of the black schools were better than in the predominantly white schools. That I can attest to from experience.

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Seventh: The idea that integrating the schools will bring the black and white children closer together is not true. This can be seen by the events of the past year. I can also see it very clearly in my own classroom. Moving large numbers of children around involuntarily regardless of color only results in hatred and resentment.

I do hope that you will work toward ending forced busing not only in Boston but nationwide. Congress must act soon before more chaos is created and white flight to the suburbs is complete.

Sincerely yours,

