Press release: "Congress votes down busing," circa 1975

John Joseph Moakley
CONGRESS VOTES DOWN BUSING

The U.S. House of Representatives last week adopted an amendment by Congressman Esch of Michigan intended to block forced cross-district busing.

Joe Moakley (D-Boston), who cast anti-busing votes on all four 1973 tests, was joined in supporting this anti-busing amendment by Congressmen James A. Burke (D-Milton), Torbert H. Macdonald (D-Malden), Margaret M. Heckler (R-Wellesley), Edward P. Boland (D-Springfield), Harold D. Donohue (D-Worcester) and Paul W. Cronin (R-Andover).

Supporters of the amendment are seeking to prevent court-ordered cross-district busing plans such as the so-called "Detroit Plan" in which thousands of young students were ordered bused up to 36 miles.

While President Nixon is prepared to sign such a bill, pro-busing forces in the Senate are expected to try blocking the House amendment. However, the House floor debate in which Congressman Moakley participated, indicated that the House of Representatives has drawn the line on the issue of forced busing—and will not accept any compromise measure.

The amendment was added to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which will provide Boston schools with nearly $8-million in Federal aid next year.