Correspondence between John Joseph Moakley and Boston City Councilor Louise Day Hicks regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit forced busing, 2 December 1975

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December 2, 1975

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of the parents and schoolchildren of the City of Boston, I wish to commend you for the courageous stand you took during the recent Democratic Caucus. We realize the situation was not made any easier for you by the actions of the national leadership of the AFL-CIO, and the Party leadership itself.

Your vote against tabling the motion to instruct the Judiciary Committee to report a constitutional amendment to prohibit forced busing out onto the Floor of the House of Representatives was encouraging to those of us who see such an amendment as the only salvation for the cities of America.

Our numbers are growing daily, and I am quite sure the time will soon arrive when a majority of your colleagues will recognize the injustice and counterproductiveness of forced busing as a method to achieve integration in the public schools of our nation.

The situation in Boston is testimony to the failure of forced busing, and we urge you to continue to support measures within the Congress for the enactment of a constitutional amendment to prohibit forced busing.

Again, thank you for your stand in the Caucus.

Sincerely,

Louise Day Hicks

LDH/ke
December 9, 1975

The Honorable Louise Day Hicks
Boston City Council
New City Hall
One City Hall Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Louise:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your very kind letter of December 2.

I am deeply appreciative to those concerned Bostonians who were able to make the long and tiring trip to Washington so as to watch the Democratic Caucus meet to consider the issue of Forced Busing.

It was heartwarming for me, as the Representative for the 9th Congressional District, to have so many fellow Bostonians, many of them friends and neighbors, in the gallery when I rose to speak out against Forced Busing and to urge our Democratic colleagues to consider the anguish and concern which busing has brought to the City of Boston.

Although our efforts in the Caucus to bring a Constitutional Amendment to the Floor for an up or down vote were unsuccessful, you have my assurances that I will continue in my efforts on behalf of the discharge petition, which remains as the only feasible course of action left to us.

I trust that we will work together in the future to resolve the torment and turmoil in our City's public school system, which makes learning in the classroom impossible for all students.

With all best wishes for the Holiday Season, I remain

Sincerely yours,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress