

Reading, Mass 01867

November 8, 1974

The Honorable Mayor Kevin White  
City Hall  
Boston, Mass.

RECEIVED  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor White:

I am a white, middle class student attending high school here in Reading. We have students in the M.E.T.C.O. program bused here as do many other suburbs of Boston. There are few, if any, problems here in Reading concerning racial unbalance, but I can see the problem of this in the city, on a larger scale.

I strongly feel that forced busing is wrong. Any student who wishes a better education has to make his own school better whether or not it is a primarily black or white school. This can easily be accomplished by earnest work and student/teacher/parent support.

One reason for forced busing is to equalize education. If this goal cannot be reached by busing, Federally controlled schools may be a possible answer in the future. This would mean all students, in all schools, would be taught the same things. This would cramp creativity and mold students into carbon copies of each other.

Forced busing is hurting students as much as Federally controlled schools would, and is

accomplishing nothing more than a racial misunderstanding between children as well as adults.

Before society can be liberated from racial prejudices, the children must be liberated from racial pressures. Forced busing does not accomplish this.

Sincerely,





CITY OF BOSTON  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY HALL, BOSTON

KEVIN H. WHITE  
MAYOR

November 25, 1974

[REDACTED]  
Reading, MA 01867

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

I would like to thank you for your letter of concern about the current busing problem in our City of Boston. You have obviously put a great deal of thought into the subject, and have some good ideas about how to improve the quality of education of all students.

As I'm sure you know, I too have always opposed the idea of forced busing. . . I think there are many ways to achieve integration without having to resort to this coercive and unproductive method. In fact, I have always advocated that "metropolitanization" is the appropriate solution to the mutual problems of desegregation and quality education. If Boston and the suburbs participate in a joint plan, I firmly believe that each student could choose the school he/she wanted to attend, and still achieve our goal of integrated schools.

However, Federal courts have passed a law that requires the City of Boston (alone) to desegregate its schools. We are a nation of laws, not of men; and as a result, I have been compelled to uphold this law until a new one comes into effect or the present one is repealed. In order to comply with the Federal law, I have done everything in my power to see that all Boston children can go to school in safety, and receive the best education possible.

Having explained my position, I hope you will agree with me, and work towards the eventual goal of quality education for all. Your letter shows the kind of concern and awareness that is necessary in these trying times, and I have faith that with people such as yourself, our City will eventually succeed.

Sincerely,

Kevin H. White  
Mayor

KHW: am