

Dear Representatives Cortvriend, Donovan, Knight, Speakman, Finkelman, Azzinaro, McGaw, Edwards, and Carson:

Thank you for taking the time to form a study commission on student transportation in Rhode Island. As a parent whose child is on a scholarship to attend, and who works two separate jobs to afford the tuition, as does my husband, parents like us are stretched. All parents are stretched to afford basics for our children in this economy. Moving to a private school was a measured decision from what our child needed to grow. She is an intelligent person who felt left behind in a classroom full of children who were acting up and distracting everyone else from learning. She felt bullied by other students outside of school even though her teachers were great and supported her as best they could.

I understand your concerns, however, I have chosen to send my child to St. Mary Academy - Bay View from *Pawtucket, RI* because:

- This is the best learning environment for my child to grow and learn as a young woman, among female peers, with small class sizes
- Our school has made a significant impact on the life of my child who strives at science and art. The science program is stellar, and she was already learning at a high school level in middle school.
- She was requested by high school teachers to be in their honors classes, as she has felt confident to accept this honor.

Bus transportation is one of the very few student supports supported by our tax dollars that makes it possible for my child to get to and from the school that best serves their needs. Additionally, having the buses on the road cuts down the cost on the roads having less cars travel daily. Private schools have used buses for decades without issue, this not only creates jobs, but also cuts down on our carbon footprint. I support all students going to the school that best serves their needs in this state and we need our elected officials to help ensure every child has transportation to get to the school that is best for that student through regional busing. Families need your support for all children in Rhode Island. I strongly urge you to consider all our students in Rhode Island and their families and protect student transportation options.

We only have one car, and take public transportation or bike to our jobs, if possible, to help cut down on the road traffic. A bus is a safe option to get students to and from school. If there is a change to bus transportation it will deeply impact my child's wellbeing and for us get our child to and from school.

Thank you,

Rebecca Siemering
rebecca.siemering@gmail.com/401.556.8260
Pawtucket, RI--
Rebecca Siemering
Artist
C 401.556.8260
<http://www.rebeccasiemering.com>
@rsiemering