

May 19, 2025

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to you in regards to Bill H6236. As a parent of a student and alum of Meadowbrook Waldorf School in Richmond, RI, I feel that it is important to convey the negative impact that this bill would have on my family and our school community.

The proposed changes to the bussing zones would significantly impact our school community. **Under the current plan, Meadowbrook Waldorf School (MWS) would be moved from zone 4 to a newly drawn zone 9, resulting in only 16 of our current 53 “bus kids” receiving transportation.** This drastic cut would create serious challenges for many families who depend on reliable transportation to get their children to school.

Access to transportation allows families to choose the educational pedagogy that best supports their children’s growth and development. It also ensures that parents can continue to participate in the workforce and contribute to our local economy.

There may be an assumption that families who choose private education can simply absorb the cost of transportation. This is simply not true. At MWS, 44% of our families receive tuition assistance. For many of our families, riding a school bus is not a luxury—it’s essential.

There must be a better solution to fix the issue of school transportation than what we are currently being shown. Consolidating bus stops, optimizing routes, and collaboration between public and private schools and their communities are just a few ideas to cut costs and improve the efficiencies of our current school transportation system.

I urge you to support the continuation of transportation for private school students across Rhode Island. Please do not vote for H6236 and encourage this bill’s sponsors to find family-friendly solutions to getting children safely to school.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Rhode Island’s families and children.

Sincerely,

Tamarah Faust

South Kingstown, Rhode Island