

May 19, 2025

From: Tara Ward/Meadowbrook Waldorf School Parent

Concerning: House Bill Number 6236

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of the continued busing for Meadowbrook Waldorf School families.

I have chosen to send my child to *Meadowbrook Waldorf School* from *South Kingstown* because this school has provided an opportunity for my child to develop a true love of learning by connecting with nature and supporting him to embody who he truly is.

Meadowbrook's mission aligns with our families' values and provides opportunities, like a deep love of learning, that are not accessible in public schools.

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 buses on the road cuts down the cost on the roads and having less cars travel daily. 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 our family's ability to get our child to and from school. 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 bussing. 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.

It is a common misconception that Meadowbrook Waldorf School families are all wealthy. Affording this education is a sacrifice for our family, and for many. As local taxpayers, busing is one of the ways our property tax that goes toward public education, works for us. In addition, losing busing for our child would impact our ability to get to and from work in a timely manner.

Thank you.

Tara Ward

South Kingstown, Rhode Island