

Members of the Special Joint Legislative Commission,

I strongly urge you to vote to continue providing bussing for private school families in Rhode Island. First and foremost, those families pay taxes that go directly to public schools and as such they have a right to receive all services available to the citizens who pay taxes regardless of how or where they choose to educate their children and the size of their income. Depriving those citizens of the services that they pay with their own tax money is simply wrong and unconstitutional.

Second, many working and low-income families send their children to private schools. Yes, you read that one right - many working and low-income families send their children to private schools. Some parents work two jobs in order to send their child to a private school of their choice. They rely on the school buses to ensure that their children get to those schools on time and in a safe manner. Those families sacrifice many things in order for their children to attend that private school. Removing the bussing option would put an undue burden on those families.

Third, removing the bussing option for the families that choose to attend a private school instead of the public school will create more traffic congestion around schools and cause countless students to lose the opportunity to attend a school of their choice where they have made friendships and have received excellent education.

I urge the commission to consider the impact on Rhode Island families and maintain school transportation for all students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Karnaukh
Johnston, RI