

EDMUND S. MUSKIE  
MAINE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 7, 1972

Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
American GI Forum of United States  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Doctor Garcia:

Thank you for your recent correspondence informing me of your position on busing.

I have stated on many occasions that I do not think busing is the final answer or the best answer to the problem of equal educational opportunity, but there may be some situations when busing is the only tool available to achieve this goal. When this is the case, I believe it would be wrong to enact legislation which would have the effect of absolutely barring the use of busing.

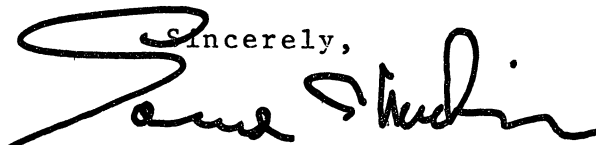
Instead, in those limited situations where busing may be necessary, I believe it is essential that such busing not diminish the quality of education for any child. This concern prompted my support of the Scott-Mansfield compromise amendment. The amendment does not preclude the use of busing in those situations where it may be the only tool available to achieve equal educational opportunity. It declares, however, that such busing is appropriate only where the time or distance of travel will not risk the health of the child or significantly impinge on the educational process.

I believe this is a wise compromise. I hope that, having reached this decision, we can now go on to face the basic issue -- that of providing top quality education for every child in this country.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely,



Edmund S. Muskie  
United States Senator