

**PETITION**

**TO END LEGAL APPROVAL OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN BY  
REPEALING SECTION 43 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA**

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw the attention of the House to the following:

**WHEREAS** section 43 of our Criminal Code allows schoolteachers, parents and those standing in the place of a parent to use “reasonable” force for the “correction” of pupils or children under their care;

**WHEREAS** “reasonable force” has been interpreted to include strapping, kicking, hitting with belts, sticks, and other objects causing bruises, welts and abrasions;

**WHEREAS** on January 30, 2004 the Supreme Court of Canada, in a 6 to 3 decision, limited but failed to strike down Section 43 of the Criminal Code as unconstitutional and allowed “minor” corporal punishment of children from 2 to 12 years of age;

**WHEREAS** research shows that “minor” slapping and spanking can cause psychological and emotional harm to children and that serious physical abuse usually begins with such “minor” punishment;

**WHEREAS** legal approval of all forms of violence against children is contrary to their fundamental right to security of the person and to the equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination as guaranteed by our Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

**WHEREAS** in June 1995, the UN Committee overseeing the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Canada in 1991, recommended to our government that physical punishment of children in families be prohibited and in October 2003, informed our government that it was “deeply concerned” that Canada had not removed section 43 and regretted its failure to heed the Committee’s 1995 recommendation;

**AND WHEREAS** legal approval of the use of force for “correction” teaches children that violence is an acceptable method of dealing with conflict and hence contributes to the level of crime in our society;

**THEREFORE your petitioners call upon Parliament to end legal approval of this harmful and discriminatory practice by repealing section 43 of the Criminal Code.**

**SIGNATURES (Do not print)      ADDRESSES (Full home address OR city and province)**

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