



The Hitting Stops Here!
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A campaign for teaching kindness and respect in schools everywhere.
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Below:

- September 2011 news reports regarding federal bill for banning USA school corporal punishment
- Bill Introduced by New York Representative Carolyn McCarthy, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011, PSA

• **Bill Banning Corporal Punishment in Schools To Be Introduced in Congress**

**19 States Still Allow School Personnel to
Beat Students.**

3 Out of 4 Americans Oppose the Practice

The bill is attached.

PSA for McCarthy's Bill:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=SydswuSpWds

WASHINGTON, DC (Sept. 21, 2011) -- Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY4), a nurse who has put a heavy emphasis on public health and safety issues since joining Congress in 1997, will on Thursday introduce the "Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act," legislation that aims to end the practice of children being struck or beaten in schools by school personnel.

"There are two Americas out there for young students right now – one where they go to school knowing that they'll be guided positively by caring adults, and one where they live in constant fear of getting beaten," said Rep. McCarthy, a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce. "Bullying is enough of a problem among students; the teachers shouldn't be doing it, too. There's nothing positive or productive about corporal punishment and it should be discouraged everywhere."

According to the latest data from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, from the 2006-2007 school year, over 200,000 students are the victims of corporal punishment every year. African American children and children with disabilities experience corporal punishment at disproportionately high rates. In the case of the latter, many are punished simply for behaviors arising out of their disabilities, such as autism or Tourette's syndrome.

According to polling done in all 50 states by SurveyUSA in 2005, only 23 percent of Americans believe it's okay for teachers to hit students.

The Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act enforces its ban by allowing the Education Secretary to withhold funds, either fully or partially, to any educational agency or institution that allows corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment is defined in the bill as “paddling, spanking and other forms of physical punishment, however light, imposed upon a student.” The bill provides for an exemption that allows for school personnel to use reasonable restraint if a student’s behavior poses an imminent risk of physical injury to the student, school personnel, or others.

The bill affects educational agencies or public schools that receive federal funds and private schools that serve students who are recipients of federal services. The bill does not apply to home schools, or private schools that don’t serve students who receive support from federal education programs. Currently, 19 states allow corporal punishment in their schools.

The bill includes positive reinforcement too, by providing competitive grant funds to states to help them improve school climate and culture through the use of positive behavior support approaches. States may subgrant the funds to local educational agencies to help ensure that private schools can also participate.

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, a long-time opponent of the practice whose organization will support Rep. McCarthy’s bill, said: “Just like we have fought against education policies being premised on sanctions and penalties, the same thing is true of the idea that threatening or administering physical punishment will motivate students. Corporal punishment—hitting children—improves neither behavior nor student performance,” said.

Deborah J. Vagins, Senior Legislative Counsel of the ACLU’s Washington Legislative Office, said: “This important legislation would end the arcane practice of corporal punishment in schools. It is stunning to think children in some states receive greater protections against physical discipline in detention facilities than they do in classrooms. The Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act will help provide the safe, supportive academic environment all students deserve and need to achieve academic success.”

Nadine Block, founder of the Ohio-based national organization Center for Effective Discipline, said: “Ohio’s legislature banned school corporal punishment in 2009. It was a struggle to win hearts and minds during that fight but we were successful because a majority of the public opposed the practice and no evidence existed that showed corporal punishment was better than other discipline strategies for changing school behavior. A nationwide ban makes sense to protect all students in America and Congress should act swiftly to pass this common-sense measure.”

The 19 states where corporal punishment in schools is currently legal are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming.

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Paddling is Bullying, Outlaw It, Says U.S. Congresswoman

By [Carol Bengle Gilbert](#)



A federal bill introduced by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy would ban paddling in school.

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, a Democrat from New York's 4th congressional district, introduced a bill Wednesday to ban corporal punishment in American schools.

"Bullying is enough of a problem among students; the teachers shouldn't be doing it, too. There's nothing positive or productive about corporal punishment," [McCarthy said](#) on her House website.

The bill would ban paddling, spanking and all other forms of physical punishment.

School Paddling Pervasiveness

Nineteen U.S. states allow corporal punishment in school, most of them in the south. They are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming.

[The United States is almost alone in the industrialized world](#) in allowing schools to use corporal punishment on students.

[Boys, blacks and special ed students](#) receive a disproportionate share of school paddlings.

Problems with Paddling

In 2006-2007, the latest year for which data was collated by the U.S. Dept. of Education, [more than 220,000 children were subject to corporal punishment](#) in American schools.

According to child development experts:

- Half of students subjected to corporal punishment develop traumatic reactions characterized by [depression and anxiety](#).
- Corporal punishment [increases the risk of a child becoming physically aggressive, delinquent or both](#).
- Students subjected to corporal punishment are more likely to engage in verbal or physical attacks both against the punishment source and against others in the environment.
- [Corporal punishment and homicide rates](#) show a troubling correspondence. Researcher Murray A. Straus suggests that children learn that violence is a way to correct behavior and repeat that lesson in social situations where they perceive another person needs to be taught a lesson.

- Spanking is associated with [slowed development and decreased IQ](#).
- Paddling can cause [severe muscle injury, extensive blood clotting, whiplash, and hemorrhaging](#), according to the Society for Adolescent Medicine.

From Principal's Office to Emergency Room

In the 1986-87 school year, when the Society for Adolescent Medicine estimated that 3 million cases of physical punishment occurred in schools, [10,000 to 20,000 children needed medical treatment](#) as a result. Since then, the number of annual school paddlings has decreased, but students are still winding up in emergency rooms. Last year, these school paddlings made the news after the students suffered medical problems:

- Trey Clayton [lost and damaged numerous teeth and broke both jaws](#) as a result of passing out and falling after a school paddling in Independence, Miss. in March.
- In March, Wichita Falls, Texas student Tyler Anastopoulos was paddled so hard for skipping detention that he ended up at the hospital emergency room for [treatment of deep bruises](#).
- A 12-year-old Pike County, Ky. boy's parents complained that a paddling left their son in need of emergency room treatment in May. James Wallace said his son had [bruises and blisters](#) on his buttocks.
- Tenika Jones' 5 year old son was paddled in April by a school principal in Levy County, Fla. The [bruising led to an asthma attack](#), she said. Her son missed a week of school and suffered recurring nightmares after the incident, [Gainesville.com](#) reported.

Violence in Corporal Punishment States

Here's a look at per capita crime rates for states authorizing the use of corporal punishment on school children:

- Seven of the 19 states which authorize corporal punishment in schools are in the top 10 with respect to [murder rankings per capita](#). Fifteen of the 19 are in the top half of states when it comes to per capita murder rates.
- Four of those 19 states are in the top 10 for [violent crime per capita](#), while 14 are in the top half.
- Each state that permits schools to inflict corporal punishment on students also is [among the 34 that impose the death penalty](#).
<http://news.yahoo.com/paddling-bullying-outlaw-says-u-congresswoman-211100520.html>

Learn more:

www.NoSpank.Net

www.PositiveDiscipline.com

www.TheHittingStopsHere.com

Informative YouTubes: www.youtube.com/user/paulaflowe

Register for having safe American schools:

www.UnlimitedJustice.com