

Dear Senator,

I am writing in support of Bill S-206 to repeal Section 43 of the *Criminal Code*. I support this bill because:

1. It is every child's human right to not be hit and hurt by those entrusted with their care.
2. Canada has been repeatedly criticized by the United Nations for its failure to repeal Section 43, an obligation attendant on Canada's ratification of the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
3. 52 countries have now prohibited all physical punishment of children and 54 more have committed to doing so. Canada has not yet made this commitment. It is time that we do.
4. 'Mild' physical punishment can easily escalate into more severe violence. Section 43 gives a green light to parents to hit their children, placing both child and parent at-risk.
5. Even 'mild' physical punishment predicts only negative outcomes, including increased aggression and bullying, slower cognitive development, impaired brain development, and heightened risk of engaging in dating violence, spousal violence and parental violence towards children in later life. Mild physical punishment has been identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience.
6. In order for children to learn how to resolve conflicts without violence, adults need to model this for them from the earliest years. No evidence-based parent education program prescribes physical punishment. There are many constructive, effective, alternative approaches to discipline that do not model violence.
7. The Supreme Court decision on Section 43 undermines the work of social workers, physicians and parent educators who are unable to give a clear message to parents. In fact, they are placed in the position of having to tell parents where and how they can legally hit children.
8. Every other Canadian citizen is legally protected from violence on the basis of fundamental human rights. It is past time to protect our youngest, smallest, most vulnerable citizens.

I call on you to stand up for Canada's children by supporting Bill S-206. Repeal of Section 43 would be a powerful symbol of Canada's commitment to children as we celebrate our 150th year.

Sincerely,

[Name, degrees]

[Position]