



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

11 May 2023

Senator Stan Kutcher
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4
Stanley.Kutcher@sen.parl.gc.ca

RE: End Corporal Punishment

I am writing to you—as both a member of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and the co-founder of a self-directed learning senior elementary and secondary school with the Toronto District School Board (Alpha II Alternative School)—in support of S-251: An Act to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code.

Recent research on the effect of corporal punishment has determined that adaptive family functioning suffers greatly when family dynamics turn violent, heightening the child's need for family support, while at the same time diminishing the child's chances of having those needs met.

In addition to emotional distress and the short-term physical effects, family violence has been found to deeply poison the familial environment in the long term, leading to unfavourable outcomes in adult life. Furthermore, childhood exposure to family violence has also been found positively correlated with re-victimization in adult life as well as increasing the odds of becoming a perpetrator of violence oneself.

While there remains controversy among scholars on the particularities of how family violence in childhood affects later life, the significance of its detrimental effect is widely accepted.

Senator Kutcher, I applaud you for sponsoring this public bill to decrease violence against children and promote healthy development in young people and give my full endorsement of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Carol Nash PhD
Scholar in Residence
History of Medicine Program
Department of Psychiatry
Temerty Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto