



Opportunity
Changes
Everything

June 7th, 2023

Senator Stan Kutcher
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Re: Bill S-251

Dear Senator Kutcher,

I am writing on behalf of BGC Canada (formerly Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada) in support of Bill S-251. BGC Canada applauds you for championing this Bill to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which allows parents and caregivers to physically punish children.

BGC Canada is the largest dedicated child- and youth-serving organization in the country, serving close to 150,000 young people in every province and one territory. By delivering evidence-based, effective, and tailored programs, Clubs provide young people with the opportunity to explore their interests, develop their strengths, and realize positive outcomes in academics, physical activity, self-expression, healthy living, mental health, and more.

We believe section 43 violates children's rights through the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which guarantees all citizens' rights to security of the person (Section 7) and equal protection of the law regardless of age (Section 15). Repealing section 43 has also been identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a Call to Action.

BGC Canada provides a safe place for all children. Two of our organizational values are belonging and respect - and corporal punishment is not in line with how BGC Canada promotes child development. We therefore strongly support Bill S-251 and the repealing of section 43. We believe passing this Bill would action the government's commitment to upholding children's human rights to be raised in a world free of violence and ensuring that every child gets the best possible start in life.

If there is any way for BGC Canada to further support your work on getting Bill S-251 passed please reach out to Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould, Director of Public Policy and Engagement at gmoncrieffgould@bgccan.com.

Sincerely,



Owen Charters
President & CEO

400-2005 Sheppard Ave E.
Toronto, ON M2J 5B4
905-477-7272
Toll-free: 1-844-477-7272

bgccan.com



Registered Charitable
Organization No.
130361710RR0001