

November 18, 2009

Dear Supporters of Safe American Schools,

Today's meeting was a great success for our American school children. The Department of Education and Labor has been served with the three most sound, compelling and professional documents* of this millennium regarding American school abuse. All three of these reports were written within nine months of each other and are a "must read" for all adults concerned with the conditions of American schools and how these conditions impact our children and society at large.

Some of the material presented at today's meeting is found below. The complete packet left behind for Mr. Miller's reviewing will be available on this link soon.

The transcript of the entire meeting will also be available for reading here soon.

We will be holding a follow-up meeting at Mr. Miller's Office again on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 10am PST.

Thank you,

Paula Flowe, Exec. Director

The Hitting Stops Here!

A campaign for teaching kindness and respect to children everywhere.

www.TheHittingStopsHere.com

info@thehittingstopshere.com

Board member of Parent and Teachers Against Violence in Education

408.223.7797

*

UC Davis Law Review: STATE ACTORS BEATING CHILDREN: A CALL FOR JUDICIAL RELIEF, April 2009, by Professor of Law, Deana Pollard

<http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/State%20Actors%20UC%20Dav.pdf>

ACLU report: A Violent Education, August 2008, by Alice Farmer

http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/ACLU_2009.pdf

Government Accountability Office (GAO) report: Seclusions and Restraints: Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment Centers

http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/GOA_2009.pdf

November 18, 2009

Dear Chairman George Miller,

As Executive Director of The Hitting Stops Here! and board member of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education (PTAVE), I request that you bring your immediate attention to the material contained in the packet that I am leaving in your hands on this day. It contains information and evidence of the harm caused to a human being when mistreated in any way during their developing years.

I have included information on how **mistreatment of children negatively affects their:**

- mental and emotional condition
- self-esteem
- digestive system
- desire to learn
- relationship with authority figures
- relationship with their peers
- ability to make contributions in their communities

and a host of other social-ills that children and society at large experience when children are targets of violence in ANY form.

I request that you consider, with Godspeed, bringing this dark day of American history to a close for our American school children.

Presently, our government is failing to extend the 14th amendment “equal protection” law to ALL American school children, a US citizen Constitutional right. To continue to do so having full knowledge of the widespread and numerous cases of US school abuse and fatalities occurring in our schools on a daily basis would display our US Government as being reckless and cruel to its children.

We believe that we have a better “America” than that. We believe that our government officials will respond with the level of integrity and care that our children believe in and to which they pledge their allegiance daily from our American classrooms.

The Hitting Stops Here! Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education and other children’s rights advocates are calling on you, as Chairman of the Dept. of Education and Labor, to bring all forms of sanctioned and lawless methods of discipline that have been proven with an overabundance of evidence by science to be harmful to an end by December 1, 2009.

We request a follow-up meeting with you on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paula Flowe, Exec. Director

Tony Brian, Asst. Exec. Director

The Hitting Stops Here!

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info@thehittingstopshere.com

Board members of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education

408.223.7797

P O Box 731545
San Jose, CA 95173-1545

November 17, 2009

Dear Chairman George Miller,

My name is Daniel Perez. I was born with autism and I have no verbal language. I am a twenty-four year old man about to turn twenty-five in December. I am intelligent just as most people having autism are, though our society often dismisses us as being mentally delayed or unaware of what is going on in the “real world.”

When I was in high school, my school teacher assaulted me in a way that has changed my life forever. If you are reading this letter during a school hour in the US, an American school child, is being assaulted by an American government paid school teacher just as I was. I know this because I learned about the physical and sexual abuse going on in our American schools at an alarming rate from three recent reports which document widespread school abuse in America. The May 19, 2009 Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigative report, ordered by your office, tells all about how children with disabilities, particularly like mine, are being abused in American schools, some leading to fatalities.

I am appalled that our government and those in power to bring this “American school terrorism” to an end are turning a blind eye to it.

As a board member of The Hitting Stops Here! and as a concerned US citizen and adult having experienced American school abuse, I am here today to tell you that these harmful forms of abuse must stop now. I believe that you are in power to bring this sanctioned and lawless barbarism in our American schools to an end. I will not stop campaigning with The Hitting Stops Here!, bringing this social-ill to the attention of fellow Americans across this nation until it is over.

Will you extend to all of our American school children their 14th amendment US citizen right to be protected from harm immediately? If so, by when? If not, why not? The hitting and all forms of assault can and must stop here!

Thank you,

Daniel Perez, SJCC Student and member of
American SAFEPASS (Student Alliance For Education in Peaceful American Schools)
nerydan@aol.com

November 17, 2009

Dear Supporters of Safe American Schools,

Tomorrow is the “big day” at the office of Dept. of Education and Labor, California Congressman, Chairman George Miller. We believe that this meeting will be the turning point, in favor of our American school children, that has been long awaited.

The Hitting Stops Here! has in its possession three of the most sound, compelling and professionally written documents on the issue of American school abuse of this millennium. We will be presenting excerpts from all three* at this eventful meeting. **A San Jose City College student with autism (lacking verbal language) who was abused in our American school system will present as well.**

Our government is failing to extend the 14th amendment “equal protection” law to ALL American school children, a US citizen Constitutional right. To continue to do so after being briefed on the widespread and numerous occurrences of US school abuse and fatalities occurring in our American schools would display our US Government as reckless and cruel to its children.

We believe that we have a better “America” than that. We believe that our government officials will respond with the level of integrity and care that our children believe in and to which they pledge their allegiance daily from our American classrooms. This is why we are so very confident that the day of “safe nurturing schools for ALL American school children” is but moments away. And for this, we wholeheartedly thank those of you who have supported our work through well wishes, prayers, labor, donations and other generous offerings.

We will have a “Day After Dept. and Ed. and Labor Meeting” letter posted on our website on November 19, 2009 containing information on the results of this meeting, our new plans for a speedy victory, and what you can do to help.

On the Home page of our website please see “Dept. of Education and Labor Meeting” in the left column under “Hot Topics.” Information, YouTubes, and directions for helping us make the difference that our school children are counting on is being placed there regularly.

Please keep these six facts in mind as you consider how you would like to help:

- **20 US states and its territories allow for “hittable” American school children.** 30 US states extend the 14th amendment to their school children making beating them a crime.
- **50 US states and its territories have no laws prohibiting the use of harmful seclusions and restraints.**
- The reported no. of American school beatings that took place in **school year 2007-08 was approx. a ¼ million. The no. at the end of school year 2008-09 was 350,000. This ASTRONOMICAL increase of 100,000 in a single year is UNPRECEDENTED by any of other year in American history.** Prior to President Obama’s election in fall 2008, the no. of American school beatings was, in fact, **slowly declining.**
- **Everyday in America, more than 2000 reports of school abuse are submitted. (Reporting is not mandatory.)**
- The primary targets of American school abuse are Black boys, black girls, Latinos, Native Americans, children with mental and physical disabilities (particularly those having autism and lacking verbal language) and those who are openly gay (**ACLU report: A Violent Education, linked to our Home page**).
- Our students are being beaten from **age 3 to 19 years old.**
- **Teachers are not prosecuted for abusing our American school children or for causing fatalities.** See the GAO report on our Home page. Read pp 15-17.

*See GAO/ACLU reports and the UC Davis Law Review at top of our Home page.

info@thehittingstopshere.com www.TheHittingStopsHere.com 408.223.7797 Thank you.

November 18, 2009

Representative Miller:

I am a parent, I raised 2 sons now young adults, without ever hitting them. I was raised in a family of peace. The only violence in my life happened at age 10 when I was battered by a principal for defending myself from a bully. That ONE time cost me years of pain, nightmares, and thoughts of suicide, until I got counseling and got the help I needed.

I have seen first hand in counseling and working with abused children, at risk youth, and young adults who have been beaten, battered, and bruised physically as well as emotionally in schools.

It is time for this archaic and abusive treatment of our children STOPS..AND NOW! The top schools in the world are those that do not hit..that provide students with the tools to help them make good decisions. Education is not about punitive punishment. Educators are there to TEACH, not to pass judgment on these students.

I ask...I DEMAND that all school punishment, all abusive seclusion of special education students stop now. Please, Representative Miller, you and the politicians of this country have the power to stop this abusive treatment of students. Let's all come together and change this, protect our children. They deserve better than this, don't you agree?

Thank you.

Greg Larson

www.thehittingstopshere.com - *Assistant Director, Board Member*

"Hug children every day. Stop the abuse of hitting children and students in schools. Teach by example. Isn't a child's smile worth it?"

November 18, 2009

To Congressman George Miller,

I am writing from 3,000 miles away in Pennsylvania and as a now retired Child Welfare Administrator in Philadelphia for 32 years,(working with child abuse and neglect for the public city agency) and as individual and family therapist, I am beside myself as the US is behind the rest of the world in allowing 20 states to permit legal paddling/corporal punishment in schools. This occurs mostly to minority and disabled children. There is a mountain of research about the effect of child maltreatment on the developing brain, long term health, and life expectancy over more than two decades that demonstrates the long term damages of such treatment of children. There are countless serious injuries in these states which are often shrouded in secrecy as many of these states by law do not allow legal liability for the perpetrators. Such treatment of children in schools also breeds violence and our society pays dearly . This is why I am a member of the "Hitting Stops Here" and advocate the work of "Project No Spank". The longer the government waits to correct this problem the more children are being injured and there is no reason for this in a country like America. Lets all act like these are our own children in our families and protect them.

I saw your work on the health care issues and you are a champion of those who are most vulnerable. Please do not become part of the denial that exists and do the right thing for our children.

Thank you,
David Cooperson MSW,MA,LCSW
dacooperson@yahoo.com

808 east 19th Street
Sedalia, Missouri 65301

November 18, 2009

Dear Mr. George Miller:

I'm writing you to ask your help in getting a Federal ban on an abusive, inhuman, cruel practice in our public schools called "Paddling."

The United States of America is the only country still allowing this to happen to our kids. It's only allowed in twenty states. Kids in those states lag far, far behind those in non paddling states. Crime in non paddling states is extremely lower than in paddling states.

Kids in paddling states are scoring well above the national average but kids in paddling score way below the national average. We have a law called No Child Left Behind but a paddle child is left behind the teachers have gave up on those kids. We have teachers who take great pleasure in beating the life out of kids in school. YES there have been kids who drop over dead from a paddling right in the principal office.

I have seen myself first hand elementary students beat. A first grader was beat so bad he was put in a state mental institution at age 6. At the same school a second grader was paddle to the point he ended up with his leg in a sling and on crutches for three months and yet in the same school a third grader was put in a full body cast from paddling all this done by the same principal. This took place in Missouri where theirs no law allowing paddling we have a law the makes it illegal but the law isn't enforced. Now they head hunt pre k and kindergarten kids age 3, 4, and 5 to beat with a hunk of wood.

Sir this has to come to an end. The laws are in place such as the child abuse law and assault with a deadly weapon neither law said anything about a teacher or principal being exempt by law. But yet they go unpunished for their acts. Our school kids in the United States of America lag far behind the rest of the world because we still allow untrained or under train teachers in the class room who are no more than child molesters. I beg you to lead the way on a Federal Ban ending paddling and any form of cruel and inhuman treatment of innocent school children. Thank You very much for your time i look forward hearing from you and would love to meet with you and discuss this.

Sincerely,

Richard Thomas
660-827-0014

Woman says boy bruised by paddle



[Click-2-Listen](#)

By [TRENT JACOBS](#)

The Daily Sentinel

Saturday, November 14, 2009

A San Augustine woman said she is concerned about the paddling of her 7-year-old son at his elementary school that left him with bruises on his buttocks and tailbone so severe she had to take him to the local emergency room.

Lynita Lamar told The Daily Sentinel that on Friday, Nov. 6, the principal of the San Augustine Elementary School paddled her second grader three times for having a calculator in his possession that another child had allegedly taken the previous day from the high school campus. Lamar alleges that the paddle used is one inch thick, wrapped in surgical tape and has electric lights on it that are plugged into a wall socket and meant to "intimidate children."

Lamar said she was not notified by school officials that her son had received corporal punishment, and she only discovered the paddle marks when she gave the boy his nightly bath. In previous years, Lamar said the school sent home letters allowing parents to opt out of the practice of corporal punishment. But this year, the school district did not send those letters home, she said.

Now she said she wants the school's policy reversed.

"If he had done something wrong, I think they should have contacted me, and we could have gone from there," Lamar said. "But I don't believe they have the right to whip your child so extremely that it leaves bruises on him for a week and bruises his tailbone, too.

"Now I just want to do whatever I can to change the law," she said, adding that she wanted the school board to implement a 'no-hands-on' policy, especially for the younger students. "I don't believe any 6, 7 or 8-year-old should be coming home black and blue like that."

Lamar said she will take her fight to the governor's office if she has too, and she is looking into contacting advocacy groups that oppose corporal punishment and might provide her with legal counsel to assist her in obtaining reimbursement for her hospital bill.

According to the Texas Education Agency, which does not track corporal punishment statistics, during the last legislative session, two bills that would have mandated parent consent on corporal punishment never passed. So as it stands, current state law allows for teachers and principals to issue corporal punishment as they see fit, as long as it does not cause death. And employees of public school districts are immune from prosecution for corporal punishment as long as it is not deemed "excessive" or results in bodily injury, which is exactly what Lamar says happened in her son's case.

Photographs of her son Lamar said were taken the day after the paddling show numerous black, blue and purple bruises across the child's buttocks. After taking the boy to the emergency room the next day, doctors prescribed regular Tylenol for the pain, which she said prevented the boy from resting on his backside all weekend, and a heating pad to reduce the swelling.

San Augustine ISD Superintendant Walter Key said that it was never the intention of the principal to cause any injury to the child. He said that in this case, corporal punishment was appropriate for the student's infraction, which he said he could not elaborate on because of privacy issues.

"Spanking is never meant to harm or cause injury to a child," Key said. "That's not what spanking is for, nor is any other punishment.

"The bruising I saw in the photos — I certainly didn't see the child before the bruising — but it appears the paddling did cause the bruising, but that's not what it was for," he said.

Key added that without knowing the child's medical history, it was impossible to say whether or not the same paddling would have caused similar injuries to another child.

"Some children can call fall, and they're going to bruise badly, and there's some that won't bruise whatsoever," he said.

Addressing one of Lamar's main concerns that the elementary school no longer gave parents the option of exempting their child from corporal punishment, Key said that policy was recently revised by the school board.

"The district allows for corporal punishment if that is the best form of punishment that fits the nature of the offense," Key said. "In years past, the elementary campus allowed the parents to give permission, or not, for corporal punishment. The school board found out about that and made it very clear that to the elementary school and all campuses, that was not allowable ... that if corporal punishment was the best punishment that fit the offense, than that's what had to happen."

Lamar said while she does not totally object to the idea of corporal punishment being used in schools, she is adamant that parents have the right to know whether or not their child is being physically punished and the right to not allow it to be used on their child if they wish.

"I just want the law to say that they can't be beating on my baby," she said. "I'm scared because I don't know if it will happen again. They're telling me it can without me even knowing about it. That's why I want this changed."

Texas is one of 20 states that still allow corporal punishment in schools and has historically utilized the disciplinary technique more than any other state partly due to the state's large student population.

November 16, 2009

Dear School Board Officials of Texas Schools,

Please review the material on the links below regarding the use of school corporal punishment in the state of Texas.

Science has proven that beating children is harmful in EVERY way. Schools throughout the US are replacing this old “slave tactic” with proven positive discipline models, many having done so years ago.

Our organization, The Hitting Stops Here!, requests that after reviewing the information, documents and videos below, each Texas state school official would consider the good that will come from banning the practice of sanctioned student beatings.

California is the second largest US state yet the number of sanctioned school beatings is zero. It is very possible that it would be second to Texas if sanctioned in this state. But instead, children are protected in California by their 14th amendment US citizen right which Texas fails to extend to the students in their care.

Children’s right advocate, Mr. Jordan Riak, had this to say, *“Until educators are cured of the hitting habit, society will continue to reap the whirlwind. Paddling schools will remain models for legalized child abuse setting a dangerous standard for the community. And every year we will watch with dismay as a new crop of graduates to adulthood puts into practice some of the worst lessons from childhood.”*

We look forward to your good decision, befitting to 21st century America, regarding this matter.

Texas School Abuse Legacy:

Letter to Temple, Texas School Officials:

http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/TISD_School_Officials_10_23_09.pdf

YouTube-Temple, Texas interviews with victims of school abuse:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/paulaflowe#p/a/u/0/isWoSYTa2N8>

Texas Suiting Up Minorities for Prison:

http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/newsroom/2009/a10_01.phpbn

Sanctioned sexual spanking “gang-rape style” in San Antonio, Texas, [pg. 3](#):

<http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/State%20Actors%20UC%20Dav.pdf>

Spanking lowers IQ in children:

http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/newsroom/2009/a9_25.php

Texas teacher not prosecuted for murdering boy in her arms by suffocation, pgs. 15-17

http://www.thehittingstopshere.com/docs/GOA_2009.pdf

Sincerely,

Paula Flowe, Exec. Director

Tony Brian, Asst. Exec. Director

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Board members of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education

info@thehittingstopshere.com, 408.223.7797

American School Abuse: Please be INFORMED

American school children are being abused in our schools at an alarming rate. The Hitting Stops Here! is campaigning for having all sanctioned school abuse and violent forms of punishment banned immediately.

Members of the San Jose City College club, American SAFEPASS (Student Alliance For Education in Peaceful American Schools), will attend a meeting with the office of Dept. of Education and Labor Chairman George Miller, with The Hitting Stops Here! and Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education. Time and location: 1333 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA, Wed, Nov 18 at 10am.

Please help in the following ways:

- **Be informed! Learn more about this social-issue by reading *the first five pages* of the GAO and ACLU reports and the UC Davis Law Review. These three reports are the most sound, compelling and professionally written on the subject of American school abuse of this millennium. All three are linked to the top of our website: www.TheHittingStopsHere.com.**
- **Go to: “Dept of Education and Labor Meeting” linked below “Hot Topics” on our Home page for regularly updated information.**
- **See our **Petition**. Please help us gain signatures for this cause. Return address provided.**

Contact Michael, President of American SAFEPASS, or Paula at: info@thehittingstopshere.com

The following two pages were taken from a letter written to the Temple, Texas Independent School District School Board Officials. October 23, 2009

For self-assurance in knowing that we are doing EVERYTHING we can to support TISD school officials in making the best decisions for the safety and well-being of its children, we have included a few excerpts from each of the previously mentioned professionally prepared reports:

UC Davis Law Review: STATE ACTORS BEATING CHILDREN: A CALL FOR JUDIAL RELIEF, April 2009, by Professor of Law, Deana Pollard

p.1 *“...The United States stands in stark contrast to the industrialized world relative to children’s human rights generally, and particularly in relation to public school corporal punishment. Despite an enormous body of social science research establishing both the inefficacy of corporal punishment and the very serious social harms that can result from it, twenty states have failed to respond appropriately...Currently, most scientists believe that many of the social ills that plague the United States, including violence, drug abuse, and failed interpersonal relationships, result from or are exacerbated by violence directed at children, including corporal punishment....Contemporary scientific data reveal the very serious liberty infringement inherent in public school corporal punishment...”*

p.5 *This Article focuses exclusively on corporal punishment as defined herein. Paddling a student for a prior fight with another student and for making rude comments to a principal, for using “abusive language” toward a school bus driver, for continuing to play dodge ball after being instructed to stop, for disrupting class, for failing to turn in a homework assignment, or for humming in the boys’ bathroom typify school corporal punishment. Similarly, slapping a student for breaking an egg while attempting a technology class experiment; striking boys in the testicles for disciplinary reasons; piercing a student’s arm with a straight pin as punishment, “kicking the shit” out of a student for throwing a dodge ball towards the coach in response to the coach’s request to hand over the ball; knocking a student’s eye out of its socket during a student’s fight with another student; placing a student in a choke hold, resulting in loss consciousness and broken nose and teeth; slamming a student to the floor and dragging the student to the principal’s office for being disruptive in class; and forcing painful, excessive exercise, resulting in death for talking to another student during roll call, may constitute corporal punishment, but a factual determination regarding the need for force and the intent of the school official is necessary before constitutional analysis is possible.*

ACLU report: A Violent Education, August 2008, by Alice Farmer

p.2 *“...The United States is out of step with international practice and jurisprudence on the use of corporal punishment in schools. Today 106 countries outlaw the practice, including the United Kingdom and other European countries, following rulings on corporal punishment by the European Court of Human Rights....Experts...have concluded that corporal punishment by school officials and teachers violates governmental obligations to protect children from physical violence and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. The disproportionate use of corporal punishment against African-American students in particular violates the right to non-discrimination in accessing education.”*

p.4 *“As a consequence of the helplessness and humiliation felt by students who experience corporal punishment, some students become angry: students told Human Rights Watch that it only makes them want to lash out against teachers or other students. Others become depressed or withdrawn; still others become immune to the constant violence, accepting it as a part of their daily lives.”*

Government Accountability Office (GAO) report: Seclusions and Restraints: Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment Centers

p. 2 *“...students with disabilities were abusively pinned to the floor for hours at a time, handcuffed, locked in closets, and subjected to other traumatizing acts of violence.”*

p. 6 *“A 9-year-old boy in foster care died at a [Texas] public charter school after his teacher took him to a “time out” room and restrained him using a “basket hold,” which in this case was described as an adult standing behind a child, holding the child’s crossed arms and taking him to the floor. Purportedly, the boy began to make noise like he was vomiting, then slumped over after being released. The teacher testified that she initially thought he was playing dead and joked with other staffers about planning his funeral.”*

[On September 14, 2009, a Temple Independent School District parent accompanied me into the office of Supt. Robin Battershell to disclose how her child, having special needs including a lack of verbal language, was being restrained to a seat resembling an electric chair by the use of leather straps applied to his legs and arms, and having his mouth taped closed. The grade school boy is now suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.]

The following are excerpts from the correspondences that we have had with School Board Members, Mr. David Pennington, Mr. Jerry Pickle, and TISD School Transportation Supervisor, Mr. Walter Prothos.

Correspondence between Mr. Pennington (Trumpking) and THSH!

Subject: Re: Reject corporal punishment!
Saturday, October 10, 2009 1:17 PM
From: "TRUMP KING5952" trumpking5952@aol.com
To: "PAULA FLOWE" paunia@sbcglobal.net

“I cannot imagine how it is to have a view and opinion or something that no one else gives a flip about your campaign!”