

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TITLE IX Complaint Against Paddling States

On February 6, 2010, the Coalition Against School Paddling (member organizations listed at right) filed discrimination complaints with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights against the state departments of education for the twenty states where corporal punishment is still permitted.

The coalition is filing a complaint under the the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act (more commonly known as Title IX) based on the uneven, damaging impact corporal punishment has on girls. The law prohibits sex discrimination in any education program receiving federal funding.

"Due to physical differences, especially in post-pubescent girls, paddling is more likely to result in serious harm or an unacceptable invasion of privacy for female students," said Jordan Riak, executive director of Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education.

The argument set forth in the complaint, which is identical for each state, may be viewed at www.nospank.net/title9.htm

"There is no more basic right than to be free from violence; physical punishment of adults is not permissible, young people should expect no less," said Alex Koroknay-Palicz, executive director of the National Youth Rights Association.

Dropout rates, violent crime, and other problems are most concentrated among states and localities where paddling is still allowed. It's also worth noting that among the top 100 U.S. schools ranked by Newsweek, not a single one is a paddling school.

The twenty states that still permit corporal punishment in schools are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.

The coalition intends this complaint to occasion a closer examination by education officials and by the general public of the practice of physical punishment in U.S. public schools, as well as ultimately providing a sound legal basis for its prohibition.

Coalition Partners:

DetentionSlip Media
147 West 35th Street, Suite 1205
New York, NY 10001
1 (888) 864-5639
(contact: Anthony David Adams)
anthony@detentionslip.org
WEBSITE: www.detentionslip.org

The Education Exchange,
973 5th Street, Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 443-3697
(contact: Alexia Parks)
alexia@votelink.com
WEBSITE: www.theeducationexchange.org

The Hitting Stops Here!
P.O. Box 731545, San Jose, CA 95173-1545
(408) 223-7797
(contact: Paula Flowe)
paulaflowe@thehittingstopshere.com
WEBSITE: www.thehittingstopshere.com

National Youth Rights Association
1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 296-2992 x131
(contact: Alex Koroknay-Palicz)
akpalicz@youthrights.org
WEBSITE: www.youthrights.org

NeverHitaChild.org
60 Longlea Ct., Little Rock, AR 72212
(501) 224-3128
(contact: Randall Cox, LCSW)
rcox@cei.net
WEBSITE: www.neverhitachild.org

Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education
P.O. Box 1033, Alamo, CA 94507-7033
(925) 831-1661
(contact: Jordan Riak)
riak@nospank.net
WEBSITE: www.nospank.net

People Opposed to Paddling Students, Inc.
1306 W. Brooklake Dr., Houston, TX 77077
(281) 584-9707
(contact: Jimmy Dunne)
jimmydunne7@comcast.net
WEBSITE: www.nospankingzone.org

Tennesseans for Nonviolent School Discipline
P. O. Box 120156, Nashville, TN 37212
(931) 484-0103
(contact: Toni Roberts)
tonisue@frontiernet.net
WEBSITE: www.forkidsake.org

Jeffrey L. Charles
P.O. Box 237, Roseville, MI 48066-0237
(586) 294-1117
Jeff1844@aol.com
WEBSITE: www.nopaddle.com

Reprint this page from www.nospank.net/title9-pr.pdf