

XHB185_MSEA_Gobel_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 185
Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers – Corporal Punishment -
Prohibition**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 22, 2023**

**Christian Gobel
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports HB 185. House Bill 185 requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Superintendent, to identify methods to find and eliminate any instance of corporal punishment administered to discipline any student in the state. The bill precludes the State Board of Education from issuing a certificate of approval to nonpublic schools unless, among other requirements, the nonpublic school maintains a policy of prohibiting school officials and employees from administering corporal punishment as a form of discipline to a student. HB 185 also prohibits family child care providers and child centers from administering corporal punishment to children. Maryland banned corporal punishment as a form of discipline in public schools approximately thirty years ago,¹ and MSEA welcomes the extension of this policy to nonpublic schools and child care providers.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Research and data collected from the 2017-2018 school year shows that many states, mainly in the southern United States, still permit the practice of corporal punishment

¹ MD Code, Education, § 7-306(b). See also, Elizabeth T. Gershoff and Sarah A. Font, *Corporal Punishment in U.S. Public Schools: Prevalence, Disparities in Use, and Status in State and Federal Policy*, Soc Policy Rep. p. 32 (2016), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5766273/pdf/nihms862245.pdf>.

in public schools.² Among all races and ethnicities, Native American, Black, and white students disproportionately received corporal punishment in comparison to their population for total student enrollment.³ Black and Native American students were most impacted by the use of corporal punishment. Corporal punishment was inflicted upon Black students at more than twice their rate of enrollment.⁴ Similarly, Native American students were disciplined with corporal punishment at almost twice their rate of enrollment.⁵

Corporal punishment not only fails as a behavioral mechanism, but also causes significant physical and mental harm to children. Using objects to administer corporal punishment may cause muscle and nerve damage, cuts, bruises, and in severe instances, broken bones.⁶ Additionally, repeated use of corporal punishment on a child may lead to more frequent aggressive and disobedient behavior by the child.⁷ Moreover, the research demonstrates that corporal punishment is linked with higher rates of mental health problems and lower cognitive ability and academic achievement.⁸

In contrast to corporal punishment, the use of restorative practices demonstrates promising results to build a more positive school environment for students, educators, and staff. Research examining the use of restorative practices in Baltimore City Public Schools found that suspensions dropped by forty-four percent in one academic year, and school staff reported the use of restorative practices contributed to a more positive school climate with better teacher-student relationships.⁹ Additional review of the existing research has concluded that when restorative practices are utilized out

² U.S. Dep't of Educ., Off. of Civil Rights, *Corporal Punishment in Public Schools* (Sept. 2022), https://ocrdata.ed.gov/assets/downloads/Corporal_Punishment_Part4.pdf.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Gershoff and Font, *supra* note 1, at 12.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* at 13.

⁹ Open Society Institute-Baltimore, *Restorative Practices in Baltimore City Schools: Research Updates and Implementation Guide*, p. 6 (Sept. 2020), <https://www.osibaltimore.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RP-Report-2020-FINAL.pdf>.



of school suspensions decrease and potential exists to foster positive student development.¹⁰

School districts, leaders, educators, and parents all have a part to play in building safe, healthy, and welcoming schools. Buy-in from the school community, staff training, and implementation of restorative practices with fidelity are key to achieving meaningful positive outcomes from the use of these practices. MSEA continues to support collaborative efforts to create healthier school environments through the use of restorative practices.

HB 185 furthers MSEA's goals of healthier schools for all students by banning an outdated, ineffective, and harmful disciplinary practice from being used on students in private schools and children in family child care homes and child care centers.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 185.

¹⁰ Anne Gregory and Katherine R. Evans, National Education Policy Center, *The Starts and Stumbles of Restorative Justice in Education: Where Do We Go From Here?* p.9 (Jan. 2020), <https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/restorative-justice>.

HB185_CorporalPunishment_KennedyKrieger_SENATE.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Arneson

Position: FAV



DATE: March 22, 2023 **COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy and the Environment
BILL NO: House Bill 185
BILL TITLE: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 185 - Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition

Bill Summary:

House Bill 185 prohibits the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE) from issuing a certificate of approval to noncollegiate educational institutions that do not have a policy prohibiting the administration of corporal punishment. This legislation prohibits the use of corporal punishment to discipline a child.

Background:

Section 7-306 of the Education statute of Maryland prohibits the use of use of corporal punishment to discipline a student in all public schools throughout the State. This legislation extends that prohibition to nonpublic and childcare providers throughout Maryland.

Rationale:

Kennedy Krieger Institute is home to four (soon-to-be five) nonpublic schools serving publicly funded students from throughout Maryland. Our schools are committed to providing comprehensive, innovative special education and related services for children, adolescents, and young adults with a wide range of learning, social, emotional, behavioral, physical, neurological and developmental disabilities. The Institute provides an education to public school students, funded by their local educational agencies to receive instruction in our programs.

Our mission is to enable students to reach their potential academically, socially and behaviorally. We are committed to protecting all faculty, staff, and students, ensuring that they share a safe environment to learn and grow.

The Institute wholeheartedly agrees that under no circumstance should corporal punishment be used to discipline a child. This violence causes tremendous harm both physically and mentally to a young person. We stand with our public-school counterparts in banning corporal punishment in all programs.

Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on House Bill 185.

NASW Maryland - 2023 HB 185 FAV - Corporal Punishm

Uploaded by: Judith Schagrin

Position: FAV

Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

March 22, 2023

House Bill 185: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers – Corporal Punishment – Prohibition

*****SUPPORT*****

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter – represents social workers across the state. We strongly support HB 185, a bill intended to close a loophole and protect children by eliminating use of corporal punishment in nonpublic schools and child care settings.

Corporal punishment, which has now been outlawed in 63 countries, is defined as the deliberate infliction of pain as retribution for an offense, or for the purpose of disciplining or ‘reforming’ a wrongdoer. Corporal punishment finds its roots in ancient civilizations as a means of imparting punishment not just on children but also adults. However, we no longer permit public floggings, nor the beating of prisoners, and it has been well over a hundred years ago that a man’s right to flog an ‘errant wife’ was overturned. Ironically, today it is only children – those we profess to love the most - who can be hit with impunity, short of inflicting an injury.

Numerous studies have conclusively found that physical punishment is overwhelmingly more likely to have negative long-term consequences than positive effects. While Maryland law permits parents to exercise reasonable corporal punishment, the practice was banned in Maryland public schools in 1993. The time is long overdue to assure the same standard of protective care for all Maryland children by eliminating corporal punishment in every school and child care settings without regard to public or private status.

Adults have the right to live free from the risk of physical harm. While we do not yet consider children to be individuals in their own right and deserving of the same protection, HB 185 is a much needed step in the right direction to assure the same protection from corporal punishment in school and child care settings for all of Maryland’s children.

By eliminating use of corporal punishment in private schools, Maryland has the opportunity to be a national leader in that only two states – Iowa and New Jersey – ban this nonsensical and potentially damaging practice. Our children are counting on your support.

Judith Schagrin, LCSW-C
Co-chair, Legislative Committee

SB 185 MSP Support Position for House hearing.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathy Anderson

Position: FAV



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 23, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 185 **Position: Support**

BILL TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to alter the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the state.

Under current law, respondents of a final protective order are required to surrender all firearms in their possession to a law enforcement agency or transfer them to a lawful recipient of their choice. All law enforcement agencies are required to report to the Maryland State Police Gun Center all firearms that are recovered in a crime.

This legislation will expand the Maryland State Police Gun Center's responsibilities to include receiving information from all law enforcement agencies regarding the surrendering of firearms by respondents of final protective orders. While respondents are currently required to surrender their firearms or transfer them to another person who is lawfully able to possess them, there is no central repository to track and ensure the transaction takes place. This legislation will create a repository and help ensure firearms are surrendered in accordance with the issuance of final protective orders.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 185 a favorable report.

HB185 MCSS letter of response.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Buckheit

Position: FAV

Bill:	House Bill 185	Date:	March 22, 2023
Title:	Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition	Committee:	Education, Energy, and Environment
Position:	Favorable	Contact:	Kim Buckheit kimberly.buckheit1@maryland.gov 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of *support* to House Bill 185.

MCSS collaborates with local public, nonpublic and private institutions of learning to ensure that all students have a safe environment in which to learn. Student safety is both physical and mental of which corporal punishment is harmful to both. Evidence indicates that the use of corporal punishment makes a student less likely to engage in prosocial behaviors that make our schools safe. In fact, studies show the use of corporal punishment is likely to lead to increases in maladaptive behaviors of aggression making schools LESS safe for all students and staff.

MCSS acknowledges that learning positive approaches to achieve a healthy school climate and student behavior will involve professional training and major shifts in adults' mindset. MCSS stands ready to collaborate with our partners in providing resources and support to any nonpublic school in the use of appropriate and effective discipline approaches.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider the information shared above, and MCSS strongly requests that the committee give House Bill 185 a favorable report.

EACtestimonyHB185-Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Margolis

Position: FAV

Education Advocacy Coalition

for Students with Disabilities

SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 185: NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE PROVIDERS—CORPORAL PUNISHMENT—PROHIBITION

MARCH 22, 2023

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC), a coalition of nearly 40 organizations and individuals concerned with education policy for students with disabilities in Maryland strongly supports House Bill 185, which would prohibit corporal punishment in nonpublic schools receiving state funds and in child care programs. EAC members have a particular interest in House Bill 185 because, given the extensive and disproportionate use of restraint and seclusion with students with disabilities, we are concerned that children with disabilities in child care programs and nonpublic schools are at a higher risk of being subjected to the use of corporal punishment.

According to the World Health Organization, “[c]orporal punishment is linked to a range of negative outcomes for children across countries and cultures, including physical and mental ill-health, impaired cognitive and socio-emotional development, poor educational outcomes, increased aggression and perpetration of violence.”¹

In 1985, the American Bar Association passed a resolution opposing the use of corporal punishment in childcare and education institutions and recommending that state laws be amended accordingly.² In 2008, the American Psychological Society enacted a similar resolution opposing the use of corporal punishment in “schools, juvenile facilities, child care nurseries and all other institutions, public or private, where children are cared for or educated...”³

Maryland banned the use of corporal punishment in public schools statewide in 1993; previously, the decision to prohibit this aversive and harmful mode of discipline was made on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction basis. Maryland law did not at that time, however, address nonpublic schools and child care centers. House Bill 185 offers the opportunity to do what should have been done 30 years ago and ensure that our state’s youngest children and those who attend nonpublic schools are protected from corporal punishment.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/corporal-punishment-and-health#:~:text=Corporal%20punishment%20is%20linked%20to,aggression%20and%20perpetration%20of%20violence>.

² https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/attorneys/corporal_punishmentinchildcareeducationinstitutions/

³ <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/corporal-punishment>

Please contact Leslie Seid Margolis, Chairperson, at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org 410-370-5730 with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Selene Almazan Law, LLC

Rene Averitt Sanzone, The Parents' Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, MSED, Education Advocate

Beth Benevides, Howard County Autism Society

Rich Ceruolo, Parent Advocacy Consortium

Michelle Davis, M.Ed., ABCs for Life Success

Jennifer Engel Fisher, Weinfeld Education Group

Lisa Frank, Andrea Bennett, Jen Ritchotte, Amy Tonti, Special Kids Company

Ann Geddes, Maryland Coalition of Families

Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course, LLC

Kalman Hettleman, Independent Advocate

Morgan Durand Horvath, M.Ed., Abilities Network

Rosemary Kitzinger and Marjorie Guldán, Bright Futures, LLC

Nicole Joseph, Esq., Law Offices of Nicole Joseph

Ande Kolp, The Arc Maryland

Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland

Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center

Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Maria Ott, Attorney

Jaime Seaton, BGL Law

Karleen Spitulnik, Decoding Dyslexia Maryland

Ronnetta Stanley, M.Ed., Loud Voices Together

Wayne Steedman, Steedman Law Group, LLC

Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint

Maureen van Stone, Mallory Legg, Annie Carver, Tyler Cochran, Project HEAL—Kennedy Krieger Institute

Liz Zogby, Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

HB 185 Support_Senate EEE.pdf

Uploaded by: Maddie Long

Position: FAV



**Testimony in support of
House Bill 185: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers – Corporal
Punishment – Prohibition**

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

March 22, 2023

Strong Schools Maryland is a network of education advocates dedicated to ensuring the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. We advocate for legislative and regulatory policy changes to further educational equity and build the technical capacity of everyday Marylanders to hold state and local officials accountable to their responsibilities. **We stand in support of House Bill 185**, which if enacted, would effectively eliminate the use of corporal punishment in nonpublic schools and in child care centers in Maryland.

Corporal punishment is a discipline method in which an adult purposefully inflicts pain on a child in response to a child’s behavior. According to the World Health Organization, corporal punishment has many harmful, long lasting health implications, including physical and mental ill-health, impaired cognitive and socio-emotional development, poor educational outcomes, increased aggression and perpetration of violence.¹ Far more effective and healthy practices exist, including the Restorative Justice method of discussion and problem solving.

The passage of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future began a new period in Maryland’s journey to achieve educational equity, especially with regard to

¹ [World Health Organization. 2021](#)

early learning. The Blueprint established publicly-funded, full day pre-kindergarten in the state so that all children are ready to learn and be successful when they enter kindergarten. The Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant Program includes private providers, who must ensure that a certain percentage of their four-year-old and three-year-old slots are filled using grant funds. The Blueprint also created more funding for childcare for our state's families by raising the income requirements for the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program. These and other early learning policies create more opportunities for families to gain access to affordable, high-quality options for their children. State funding should not be available to nonpublic schools or child care providers that do not hold any policy prohibiting corporal punishment.

The Blueprint's vision of equitable practices and student outcomes is incompatible with harmful disciplinary practices anywhere, least of all in nonpublic schools and child care facilities.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 185.

For more information, please contact Maddie Long
maddie@strongschoolsmaryland.org

MPA Senate Testimony 2023 - Support - House Bill 1

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: FAV



10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Ste 910, Columbia, MD 21044. Office 410-992-4258. Fax: [410-992-7732](tel:410-992-7732). www.marylandpsychology.org

March 21, 2023

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President

Rebecca Resnick, PsyD,

President-elect

Brian Corrado, PsyD

Past President

Linda McGhee, PhD, JD

Secretary

Tanya Morrel, PhD

Treasurer

Melinda Capaldi, PsyD

Representatives-at-large

Jessica Rothstein, PsyD
Andrea Chisolm, Ph.D.

Representative to APA Council

Peter Smith, PsyD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications

Robyn Waxman, PhD

Diversity

Whitney Hobson, PsyD

Early Career Psychologist

Meghan Mattos, PsyD

Educational Affairs

Laurie Friedman Donze, PhD

Ethics

Colleen Byrne, PhD

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Membership

Linda Herbert, PhD

Professional Practice

Karin Cleary, PhD

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thomas Cote, MBA, CAE

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West,

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 185 - Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition

Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, is writing in SUPPORT of **House Bill 185 - Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition**, which would extend the current ban on corporal punishment in public schools to all non-public schools and childcare centers in Maryland.

Corporal punishment is ineffective and potentially dangerous, with substantial risk of abuse and of both short-term and long-term harm to the child. Recognizing this fact, the General Assembly wisely banned this practice in our public schools in 1993. Research evidence has repeatedly shown that the use of corporal punishment in children ultimately results in less compliance and increases in children's aggressive and antisocial behavior. Some studies have shown that these adverse impacts are worse for boys than for girls, and children of color may be particularly vulnerable to the overuse of punitive methods in some schools. In addition, use of corporal punishment has been associated with more mental-health problems. In particular, the more frequently or severely that children are spanked or hit, the more likely they are to have symptoms of depression or anxiety, both at the time they are corporally punished and in the future.

Highly effective alternative behavior management programs and methodologies already exist, and they can be readily implemented to replace corporal punishment in our schools and child care centers. As one evidence-based example, many Maryland schools are using the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) system of multi-tiered programming to help all children develop effective emotional and behavioral habits in school. Many of our public school systems have implemented such programs, and it is time for our non-public schools and child care centers to eliminate corporal punishment and to implement more effective behavior management practices. We urge a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 185. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

HB185_EEE_Council_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

HB 185: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers – Corporal Punishment - Prohibition

March 22, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. Our vision is that people with and without disabilities in Maryland live, learn, work, and play together. While we have no data on the use of corporal punishment in nonpublic schools or child care, we know that children with disabilities are subject to extensive and disproportionate use of restraint and seclusion and other discipline. Therefore, there is a logical assumption that children with disabilities in child care programs and nonpublic schools are at a higher risk of the use of corporal punishment.

- Maryland banned the use of corporal punishment in public schools statewide in 1993.

WHAT does this bill do?

- Requires nonpublic schools (private schools) have a policy prohibiting the use of corporal punishment.
- Prohibits the use of corporal punishment by all child care providers.
- Aligns all of Maryland’s educational programs – public, private, and child care – to protect children.

WHY is it important?

- **It protects Maryland’s children.** 30 years ago, Maryland protected its public school students from the use of corporal punishment. HB 185 takes the important step to protect our state’s youngest children and those who attend nonpublic schools.
- **It recognizes the negative impact of corporal punishment.** According to the World Health Organization, “[c]orporal punishment is linked to a range of negative outcomes for children across countries and cultures, including physical and mental ill-health, impaired cognitive and socio-emotional development, poor educational outcomes, increased aggression and perpetration of violence.”ⁱ
- **It aligns with national resolutions already established.** In 1985, the American Bar Association passed a resolution opposing the use of corporal punishment in childcare and education institutions and recommending that state laws be amended accordingly.ⁱⁱ In 2020, the American Psychological Society enacted a similar resolution opposing the use of corporal punishment.ⁱⁱⁱ

For all these reasons, the Council supports HB 185.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

ⁱ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/corporal-punishment-and-health#:~:text=Corporal%20punishment%20is%20linked%20to,aggression%20and%20perpetration%20of%20violence>

ⁱⁱ https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/attorneys/corporal_punishmentinchildcareeducationinstitutions/

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/corporal-punishment>

HB 185 - Spport - MPS WPS (Senate Testimony).pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Tompsett

Position: FAV



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support - House Bill 185: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment - Prohibition

Dear Chairman Feldman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) and the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) are state medical organizations whose physician members specialize in diagnosing, treating, and preventing mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Formed more than sixty-five years ago to support the needs of psychiatrists and their patients, both organizations work to ensure available, accessible, and comprehensive quality mental health resources for all Maryland citizens; and strive through public education to dispel the stigma and discrimination of those who have a mental illness. As the district branches of the American Psychiatric Association covering the state of Maryland, MPS and WPS represent over 1000 psychiatrists and physicians currently in psychiatric training.

MPS/WPS support House Bill 185: Nonpublic Schools and Child Care Providers - Corporal Punishment – Prohibition. Corporal punishment, which involves physically punishing a student as a means of discipline, has been a topic of much debate in education. Several reasons exist why it should be banned in all schools:

- **Corporal punishment is ineffective:** Studies have shown that corporal punishment is not an effective method of discipline. Instead, it can lead to a cycle of violence, resentment, and fear among students and fail to teach them how to behave appropriately.
- **Corporal punishment can cause physical and emotional harm:** Corporal punishment can cause physical injuries such as bruises, cuts, and in extreme cases, broken bones, as well as emotional harm such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. In addition, children who are subjected to corporal punishment can also develop behavioral problems, such as aggression and antisocial behavior.
- **Better alternatives exist:** Many alternatives to corporal punishment have been proven effective, such as positive reinforcement, counseling, and restorative justice programs. These alternatives promote a safe and positive learning environment and teach students how to behave appropriately and take responsibility for their actions.



In summary, banning corporal punishment in schools is necessary to ensure that students are not subjected to physical and emotional harm and to uphold their human rights to a safe and respectful learning environment. For the reasons above, MPS/WPS request a favorable report on HB 185. If you have any questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.

Respectfully submitted,
The Joint Legislative Action Committee
of the Maryland Psychiatric Society and the Washington Psychiatric Society