

Dear Senators:

We have become aware that Senator Celine Hervieux-Payette continues an attack on Canadian Children and Family.

Linked here:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=8063354&View=4>

We have read her statement and must advise you not to be seduced by this rhetoric. The statement is so full of factually and scientifically false claims that it would take us four times that considerable length to refute it. Rather, we will simply direct you to our website for edification. www.keep43.ca

Please be aware that repeal of Sec.43 de-facto ***criminalizes 80% of Canadian Parents with preteen children***. To impose such draconian attack on family must have a very compelling reason, so what is it?

Spanking bans have existed for long enough that the results of forcing parents into the *positive-permissive-disengaged* parenting spectrum have become clear. We attach a report based on New Zealand's 2007 ban, whereby the usual observations are once again seen. These bans induce serious physical assault on children where parents are stripped of reasonable, harmless and highly effective behaviour enforcement tools where preventions and interventions fail.

1 Child abuse: New Zealand shows serious physical assaults and child abuse doubled, and is now triple Australia's per-capita rate (which peaked in 2008, and where parental spanking is as prevalent as in Canada at 80%) When Sweden, the first ban-country (1979) banned, serious assaults doubled in the first year, rose to 3X USA per-capita rates in 10 years, and is UP over 1,400% by 2010.

2 Child & Youth Violence: Forcing inferior parenting styles on all families where they are inappropriate increases child violence. Sweden – the first cohort to grow up under these bans were 6X more violent as teens than their previously spanked cohort. Child-on-child violence is UP by 2,500% by 2010. After Austria's 1989 ban, youth became 4X as violent per-capita compared to American youth.

3 School violence and bullying. A 2002 WHO report on bullying at school shows Austria (1989 ban) to rank highest in school bullying. Sweden has 3X the rate of serious assaults at school compared to Ontario schools. Authoritative parents enforce good behaviour at school from home – “trouble at school gets spanked at home” and believe me, that works!

4 Criminalizing parents is a material deterrent to childbirth, costing these ban countries the loss of ½ child/female in fertility rate reduction. In six years since the NZ (2007) ban, their FR trajectory has already lost 1/5 child per female compared to Australia. Note all the collapsing EU countries are spanking-ban countries. Canada's FR is sub-replacement at 1.7, do you really want to enact a policy that should single-handedly drop our birthrates to below 1.5 extinction levels?

5 These bans are strongly linked to increased behavioral/emotional problems, witness NZ up 138% since their ban.

6 These bans force parenting models that create less-resilient children, the result is increased alcohol drug problems. The three highest Drug-Induced Death countries are also the first Three spanking ban countries Sweden, Finland and Norway.

7 These bans give CAS/CPS an excellent excuse to remove children from the natural parents where they are loved and at no risk of harm, and placed into foster care & adoption systems. When Sweden banned, as a country with 8M people, they seized 22,000 children and destroyed both the children's lives and the family's lives in the process. Canada, with 35M people, should experience the additional abduction of 100,000 children from loving and safe homes if we follow this model.

8 There is NO science that shows constructive physical discipline (moderate spanking as limited under SCOC 2004 definitions) causes any harm of any kind. Actually, all the objective research shows that Authoritative Parenting Styles (Highest in nurturance, demandingness and responsiveness) produce superior children vs all other styles. While only 20% of parents are Authoritative, they universally spank as a back-up to support other methods.

Is this really what you advocate for Canada's future?

Given the fact that science repeatedly shows children fair better using constructive disciplining systems, including occasional non-abusive spanking as enforcement backup, and given the overwhelming evidence of the broad spectrum of harms these bans inflict on children, families and society at large, we ask that you are not seduced by these eloquent ideological spin arguments but work for the rational protection of children and parents in Canada.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair / Child Protection Advocate and Researcher

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