



PETITION TO: SENATE OF CANADA

# Stop Bill S-206! Do Not Criminalize 82% of Canadian Parents



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# Stop Bill S-206! Do Not Criminalize 82% of Canadian Parents



By [Keep 43](#) · 06/25/2018

Bill S-206, known as the "anti-spanking bill", poses a serious threat to Canadian parents and the wellbeing of our children. This bill was introduced by liberal senator Céline Hervieux-Payette in 2015. As of June 5th, 2018, it has received second reading and is now being studied by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

**Bill S-206 would completely eliminate section 43 from the Criminal Code of Canada.** Section 43 is a common-sense provision for all parents and teachers. It states:

*"Every school teacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances."*

In other words, section 43 allows a parent to parent and a teacher to teach, without worry of undue scrutiny or interference from the police, social services, or the government.

Without section 43, any use of force would be automatically construed as **assault**. This would include the following:

- picking up and moving a child to another room
- stopping a child from doing something he wants to do
- removing toys or objects from a child's grasp
- enforcing a time-out
- stopping a child from leaving his room or leaving his house
- restraining a child against his will
- enforcing behaviour with a spank

According to statistics, 82% of Canadian parents will use some form of constructive physical discipline with their pre-teen children (2012). In the US, the figure is 86%.

Conservative senator Raynell Andreychuk states her concerns over Bill S-206: "I remain of the opinion that the consequences of a repeal of section 43 outright may pose significant damage to Canadian families and society, without changes to allow for reasonable measures and appropriate action in law to replace it."

The Canadian Department of Justice states: "Without section 43, parents, caregivers, and teachers could face criminal charges and have to go to court to defend their actions whenever they used force to respond to a child's behaviour."

In a 2004 ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld section 43 as constitutional. The court acknowledged the right of parents to use reasonable force in rearing and correcting their children, while condemning genuine

abuse. (For more information, see the [Department of Justice website](#).)

While some children's rights advocates decry all forms of corrective force as "harmful abuse", the science says otherwise. According to well-documented [studies](#), the use of corrective force (including "spanking"), has been shown to be a **benefit to children**. Dr. M. Gunnoe asserts that children who were spanked "performed better than those who weren't in a whole series of categories, including school grades, an optimistic outlook on life, the willingness to perform volunteer work, and the ambition to attend college."

In countries that instituted "spanking bans", **rates of youth violence and crime have skyrocketed**. Sweden, which banned all forms of corporal correction in 1979, offers a glaring example of the folly of this approach to child-rearing. (See our [report](#).)

Therefore, it is imperative that we contact our senators and urge them to **reject Bill S-206**. We must retain section 43 of the Criminal Code just as it is. It is vital that parents be free to parent, and teachers be free to teach, without undue interference from civil authorities.

We at Keep 43 Committee of Canada are working to educate our senators on Bill S-206, and we will deliver this petition to them ahead of a final vote.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

-Keep 43 Committee of Canada website: <https://www.keep43.ca/>

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