

**TO: GOVERNOR TED STRICKLAND AND ALL STATE OF OHIO
LEGISLATORS
RE: BANNING SCHOOL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

WHEREAS, school corporal punishment is the intentional infliction of bodily pain on a student as a penalty for unacceptable behavior and, in most instances, involves a teacher or administrator striking the buttocks of a student with a board; and

WHEREAS, corporal punishment sometimes leads to injuries of students, psychological and other health problems, and lawsuits against school boards; and

WHEREAS, corporal punishment is administered disproportionately to poor children, children with disabilities, minorities and boys; and

WHEREAS, corporal punishment has been demonstrated to be ineffective in the long term; and

WHEREAS, almost 50 national organizations including the American Bar Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the National Education Association, the National PTA, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have condemned the practice; and

WHEREAS, 29 states and 109 countries have prohibited its use; and

WHEREAS, almost 600 public school districts in Ohio are successfully educating children without corporal punishment; and

WHEREAS, the best interests of Ohio children and our state as a whole will be served by banning corporal punishment and promoting more effective and safe discipline; and

NOW THEREFORE, we join other Ohio organizations opposing school corporal punishment and we call on the Ohio Legislature to ban school corporal punishment and to support positive discipline programs and training.

For individual signers:

Individual _____ County or City _____

For Organization signers (fax proclamation and signature to 614-221-2110):

organization

signer

position

date

