



Senator Stan Kutcher
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

January 25, 2023

Dear Senator Kutcher,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) to express our strong support for Bill S-251, “An Act to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s call to action number 6)”.

The repeal of section 43 is long-overdue and essential to Canada meeting its obligations under the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* to protect children from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, and to realizing our commitment to implement the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The CPS strongly supports repealing section 43 and encourages nonviolent, positive parenting and discipline. Disciplinary methods that are angry or violent are detrimental to both parent and child health and well-being. Physical punishment – spanking, slapping, hitting, or shaming – can hurt children both physically and emotionally, and should never be used.

When children grow up in safe homes, schools and communities, the positive impacts are widespread and intergenerational. We therefore offer our full support to the passage of Bill S-251 and thank you for your efforts to move this important issue forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Feldman, MD FRCPC
CPS President