

CHANGING SPANKING LAWS – A STEP BACKWARDS

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In our June 2009 issue (Volume 11 Issue 2) we ran an article dealing with corporal punishment which supported the current legislative effort limiting resort to same. Statements and opinions therein and in the responding article below are not necessarily those of the STLA.

Changing the “child punishment law” to limit corporal punishment of children would be a step backwards. The experts writing in your June, 2009 edition to voice their support of the Senate bill limiting spanking fail to recognize the potential such a bill has to oppress families.

My wife and I have raised six children. I do not consider myself an expert on raising children...just a whole lot better than the “experts” and the “scientists” who are trying to change our laws to criminalizing spankings. There ought to be full disclosure by the so called experts. Most, I would guess, have spent their lifetime working with dysfunctional families...not normal ones, and have limited experience raising their own.

The *Criminal Code* presently allows parents and teachers to use reasonable force to correct a child. What could be clearer than that? It looks to me like the Senate wants to prohibit the use of reasonable force, and substitute something that is...well, unreasonable...something that would allow social workers to seize children for doing what is considered reasonable to many parents...giving a child a good spanking when they deserve it!

Yet, the self proclaimed experts and do gooders of the world want to “better” define what is “reasonable.” However, children are infinitely more complex than any simplistic legislation. Every parent who loves their children is the expert on what their child needs.

Although there may be parents who do not have the best interests of their child as a priority, why intrude on all good families to save a few?

It is telling that the “experts” would look to “twenty-four countries” that have prohibited all spankings. I would guess, that every one of them is a country with a birth rate below the replacement level for their present populations.

If parents believe that it is in their child's best interest to be spanked...or assaulted, as the “experts” call it...surely the parents would do what they think is best for their child irregardless of the law and risk the consequences.

What is really scary is that any legislation that gives the state the power to prosecute parents and seize children who have been spanked, empowers the state to control many people through their children, since a significant number of parents must have spanked their children at one time or another.

If the state cannot control a person by threatening an arrest for assault, then they just need to threaten to seize a child, and see how fast a parent cooperates. Every school could have a spanking disclosure day...a show of hands of all children who have been spanked...and a report filed with social services!

A law prohibiting spanking transfers tremendous power to the state, as any law that is ignored by a large portion of the population would likely be selectively enforced based entirely upon political opportunity or by social workers who wish to intrude upon families.

The real irony is that Canadians do not have enough children to replace its present population. Yet I expect that the very people with limited experience in child rearing are the very same people who rally around no spanking laws. The more children a family has, the more obvious it becomes that corporal punishment is a loving option for disciplining a child for keeping order in a home, and more importantly, giving them the self-discipline they will need to be successful on their own. ♪

Reader
OPINION