



The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.
Protecting and enforcing the legal and civil rights of students with disabilities

July 1, 2014

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McCarthy:

COPAA is an independent, nonprofit organization of parents, attorneys, advocates, and related professionals. COPAA members nationwide work to protect the civil rights and secure excellence in education on behalf of the 6.5 million children with disabilities in America. COPAA's mission is to serve as a national voice for special education rights and is grounded in the belief that every child deserves the right to a quality education that prepares him or her for meaningful employment, higher education and lifelong learning, as well as full participation in his or her community.

We are writing today in support of the Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2014 (H.R.5005), legislation you recently introduced. As we understand it, the bill prohibits the Secretary of Education from providing federal funding to any educational agency or institution that allows school personnel to inflict corporal punishment upon a student as a form of punishment or to modify undesirable behavior.

The Ending Punishment in Schools Act of 2014 (H.R.5005) supports COPAA's core values to provide safe, positive learning environments for children with disabilities. We believe it also supports policies that protect the due process rights of parents and students, and end the use of aversive interventions, including restraint and seclusion. The bill additionally promotes an education environment in which teachers are well trained to manage behavioral challenges and schools are not permitted to use disciplinary practices in lieu of good teaching practices for students with disabilities.

Thank you for your leadership to improve the education of millions of students. Please let us know how we can assist you in advancing this measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Denise Marshall
Executive Director