

HOUSE No. 3647

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Elizabeth A. Malia, (BY REQUEST)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

Resolutions to encourage parents and caregivers of children to refrain from the use of corporal punishment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ron Goldman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

HOUSE No. 3647

By Ms. Malia of Boston (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ron Goldman to encourage parents and caregivers of children to refrain from the use of corporal punishment. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

Resolutions to encourage parents and caregivers of children to refrain from the use of corporal punishment.

1 WHEREAS, THE NATION’S PEDIATRIC PROFESSIONALS AND CHILDREN’S
2 ADVOCATES OPPOSE THE USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN, THE
3 RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT TEACHES CHILDREN THAT
4 HITTING IS AN ACCEPTABLE WAY OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS AND THAT
5 VIOLENCE WORKS, AND THERE ARE EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO CORPORAL
6 PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN; AND

7 WHEREAS, NATIONAL SURVEYS SHOW THAT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS
8 COMMON AND 35% OF INFANTS ARE HIT BEFORE THEY ARE ONE YEAR OLD, AND
9 ADOPTING NATIONAL POLICIES AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN AN
10 EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION MEASURE IN FORTY-FOUR COUNTRIES; AND

11 WHEREAS, ACCUMULATED RESEARCH SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION THAT
12 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS AN INEFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE STRATEGY WITH
13 CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND, FURTHERMORE, THAT IT IS SOMETIMES

14 DANGEROUS, AND STUDIES SHOW THAT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OFTEN
15 PRODUCES IN ITS VICTIMS ANGER, RESENTMENT, LOW SELF-ESTEEM, ANXIETY,
16 HELPLESSNESS, AND HUMILIATION; AND

17 WHEREAS, RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES THAT THE MORE CHILDREN ARE
18 HIT, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WILL ENGAGE IN AGGRESSION
19 AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AS CHILDREN IMITATE ADULT'S CONDUCT, AND IN
20 A STUDY OF 8,000 FAMILIES, CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE FREQUENT CORPORAL
21 PUNISHMENT ARE MORE LIKELY TO PHYSICALLY ATTACK SIBLINGS, DEVELOP
22 LESS ADEQUATELY-DEVELOPED CONSCIENCES, EXPERIENCE ADULT
23 DEPRESSION, AND PHYSICALLY ATTACK A SPOUSE AS AN ADULT; AND

24 WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTS, CHILDREN, LIKE
25 ADULTS, HAVE THE RIGHT NOT TO BE PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED, AND THE U.N.
26 COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT
27 PERSISTING LEGAL AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS
28 INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE U.N. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD;
29 THEREFORE BE IT

30 RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
31 ENCOURAGES PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN TO REFRAIN FROM THE
32 USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND TO USE ALTERNATIVE NONVIOLENT
33 METHODS OF CHILD DISCIPLINE AND MANAGEMENT WITH AN ULTIMATE GOAL
34 OF MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD; AND BE IT FURTHER

35 RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED BY THE
36 CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO [LOCAL AND STATE
37 ORGANIZATIONS THAT DEAL WITH CHILDREN'S WELFARE TO ENCOURAGE
38 THEM TO EXPLORE HOW THEY CAN FURTHER RAISE AWARENESS OF THIS ISSUE.]