

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3647**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Elizabeth A. Malia, (BY REQUEST)***

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*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.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ron Goldman</i>		<i>1/16/2015</i>

**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.]