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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

Referred to Committee: Senate 2

Authors: Chad Grider, Payton Riggins, Chloe Thomas, Dillan Sullivan	Action on the Bill	
School: Russell Co. MS	House	Senate
	Passed	Passed
City: Russell Springs	Defeated	Defeated

An act to eliminate spanking as a disciplinary measure for children in Kentucky homes and schools.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate spanking that could lead to physical and emotional abuse by making such actions criminal. This would include the removal of corporal punishment as a disciplining option for all Kentucky schools and by making it a Class D misdemeanor for parents to strike their children.

Section 2: For centuries, the practice of striking children for disciplinary reasons has been an accepted norm for a wide variety of cultures, especially here in the buckle of the Bible Belt. However, as we have advanced as a civilization, many antiquated views and practices, certainly those now viewed as primitive and barbaric, have been abandoned for more practical and beneficial thought-patterns and techniques.

Section 3: According to a report produced in 2008 regarding Corporal Punishment in Schools, thirty states in our country had already banned spanking in schools, with another six states with pending legislation to do the same thing. That same report claimed that, in that year alone, over 2200 Kentucky school children had been spanked in our schools. Our bill desires to take things one step further and to lead the charge in our country to rid our society of hitting kids.

Section 4: For any persons found to be in violation of this executive order, the punishments would be tiered based on occasion (number of times reported) and severity (physical harm done to the child). For a minor first offense, a person would be issued three (3) court-mandated family counseling sessions dealing with discipling children. A second offense would lead to a \$1000 fine. A third offense would be an additional \$500 fine and a 30-day jail sentence. A fourth offense would be punishable by up to a year in prison.

Section 5: This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2015.