



PHOENIX CHILDREN'S Hospital

To: U.S. organizations concerned with the well-being of children and youth

From: Phoenix Children's Hospital

Re: *Report on Physical Punishment in the U.S.* Available for Distribution and Endorsement

Date: October, 2009

We are pleased to bring to your attention an important new publication, the *Report on Physical Punishment in the U.S.: What Research Tells Us About Its Effects on Children*. It can be accessed on our website at www.phoenixchildrens.com/discipline. The report has already been endorsed by several national organizations concerned with child well-being, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Emergency Physicians, the National Association of Counsel for Children, and the National Association for Regulatory Administration. We expect that the report will be widely used for educational purposes by parents, professional organizations serving children and families, and the general public. We encourage you to bring this document to your organization's governing board for review and, if you deem it worthy, to endorse it.

The Report summarizes for a lay audience findings from research on physical punishment of children, the legal status in various settings across the states, the international effort to recognize physical punishment as a human rights violation, and the growing number of countries that have banned physical punishment of children in schools, homes, or both. The author of the report is Dr. Elizabeth Gershoff, a professor of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin and an expert on the effects of physical punishment on children. She was assisted in its development by over 30 experts from the fields of medicine, psychology, law, education, and social work.

Your organization's endorsement may be conveyed to us by printing the Confirmation of Endorsement Form and mailing or faxing it to us at the address below. Endorsement of this report signifies confidence in its review of research on physical punishment and conclusions drawn from the review, but not necessarily its specific policy-relevant recommendations. There are no legal, financial, or follow-up obligations associated with endorsement of the report. Organizations and individuals may use it for their own educational and/or advocacy purposes. An updated list of endorsements will be included in the future printings of the Report.

We hope that, in addition to considering our invitation to endorse and comment on this report, you will bring it to the attention of others you know who are interested in the issue of physical punishment of children and youth.

Respectfully,

Marcia Stanton, MSW, Coordinator, Child Abuse Prevention
Phoenix Children's Hospital, 1919 East Thomas Road, Suite 2211C, Phoenix, AZ 85016
Telephone: 602-546-3342; Fax: 602-546-3356; Email: mstanto@phoenixchildrens.com
Website: www.phoenixchildrens.com/discipline