



Andrea Garcia <agarcia@norridge80.net>

Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request.

Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 9:00 PM

To: agarcia@norridge80.net

Cc: Michael Ayele <waac1313@gmail.com>, "Michael Ayele (W)" <waac13@gmail.com>, Michael Ayele <waac142913@gmail.com>

W (AACL)

Date.: April 23rd 2025

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Request for Records

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Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such. I am writing this letter for the purpose of filing a request for records with your office.^[i] The bases for this records request are [1] the decision of former President Ronald Reagan to commemorate the month of April 1983 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month;^[ii] [2] the decision of the State of Illinois to outlaw the corporal punishment of children in private and public schools beginning January 01st 2025, approximately 42 (forty two) years after former President Ronald Reagan commemorated the month of April 1983 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.^[iii]

Please find attached to this email the content of my records request as well as information explaining my request for a fee waiver and expedited processing.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

[i] Please be advised that I have previously disseminated a vast number of documents obtained through records request using the means of various digital publishing platforms. As a representative of the media, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the records you disclose to me could be made available to the general public at no financial expense to them. This records request is being filed for non-commercial purposes to inform members of the general public / representatives of the media [who may be interested in the written content of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W – Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)] about the activities, the engagements and the priorities of the U.S government at the local, state and federal level.

[ii] *Children may be endangered by physical battering, denial of the basic necessities for life and health, sexual abuse and exploitation, or emotional cruelty. Public concern can help prevent maltreatment and help protect children. Action taken after cruelty has occurred is often too late. Prevention of abuse requires that neighborhoods and communities be attentive to the problems of families in their midst and be willing to help when help is needed. It requires the active concern of educational, medical, mental health, law enforcement, and social service professionals, and the efforts of volunteers and private citizens.*

The health and well-being of our children underlie the future of our Nation. The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 21,

has recognized the need for public attention to prevention of child abuse and has requested me to proclaim April 1983 and National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of April 1983 as "National Child Abuse Prevention Month." I urge all citizens to renew our Nation's commitment to meet the serious challenge that child abuse and child neglect pose to the welfare of our children and families.

I invite the Governors of the States; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Territories; the Mayor of the District of Columbia; the heads of voluntary and private groups; and the offices of local, State and Federal government to join in this observance. I also urge them to encourage activities whose purpose is to prevent and treat child abuse and child neglect. Proclamation 5039 – National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 1983.

[iii] This school year, Illinois will become just the fifth state in the Nation to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools. Legislation that Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law (...) bans physical punishment in private schools while reiterating a prohibition on the practice in public schools implemented 30 years ago. When the ban takes effect (...), Illinois will join New Jersey, Iowa, Maryland and New York in prohibiting paddling, spanking or hitting in every school.

State Rep. Margaret Croke, a Chicago Democrat, was inspired to take up the issue after an updated call by the American Association of Pediatrics to end the practice, which it says can increase behavior or mental health problems and impair cognitive development. The association found that it's disproportionately administered to Black males and students with disabilities. "It was an easy thing to do. I don't want a child, whether they are in private school or public school, to have a situation in which corporal punishment is being used," Croke said. Croke was also disturbed by the Cassville School District in southwest Missouri. After dropping corporal punishment in 2001, it reinstated it two years ago as an opt-in for parents. Croke wanted to send a clear message that "it never was going to be OK to inflict harm or pain on a child." Much of the world agrees.

The World Health Organization has decreed the practice a "violation of children's rights to respect for physical integrity and human dignity." In 1990, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child established an obligation to "prohibit all corporal punishment of children." The U.S. was the convention's lone holdout. Americans seemingly take a pragmatic view of the practice, said Sarah A. Font, associate professor of sociology and public policy at Penn State University. "Even though research pretty consistently shows that corporal punishment doesn't improve kids' behavior in the long run – and it might have some negative consequences – people don't want to believe that," Font said. "People kind of rely on their own experience of, 'Well, I experienced corporal punishment. I turned out fine.' They disregard the larger body of evidence."

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, last year introduced legislation, co-sponsored by Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois, to ban corporal punishment in any school receiving federal funds. It was assigned to a Senate committee for a public hearing in Mar 2023 but has seen no further action. The U.S. Supreme Court has also rejected constitutional claims against the practice. When junior high pupils in Dade County, Florida, filed a lawsuit challenging physical discipline, the court ruled in 1977 that Eighth Amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment was reserved for people convicted of crimes; it did not apply to classroom discipline.

Today, 17 states technically allow corporal punishment in all schools, although four prohibit its use on students with disabilities. North Carolina state law doesn't preclude it but every school district in the state blocked its use in 2018. Illinois lawmakers in 1994 stopped the practice in public schools. Among states that have completely outlawed it, New Jersey took the unusual step of barring corporal punishment in all schools in 1867. Iowa eliminated it in private schools in 1989. Maryland and New York stopped private school use in 2023. Private school advocates, who vehemently oppose state intervention, did not oppose the new law. 'Hitting kids should never be allowed': Illinois bans corporal punishment in all schools. PBS.: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/hitting-kids-should-never-be-allowed-illinois-bans-corporal-punishment-in-all-schools>

3 attachments



W (AACL) April 23rd 2025 Illinois FOIA Request on Child Abuse Prevention Month - House Bill 4175.pdf
3748K



Illinois 4175.pdf
708K



Corporal Punishment in Schools.pdf
631K