



July 11, 2025

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucy McBath
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frederica Wilson
2080 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bonamici, McBath, Moore, and Wilson:

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) empowers individuals with Down syndrome and their families by driving policy change, providing resources, engaging with local communities, and shifting public perceptions. We strongly support the passage of *The Protect Our Students in Schools Act* (H.R. 3625), which would ban the use of corporal punishment in schools receiving federal funding.

Corporal punishment, the act of using physical pain to instill discipline, is an outdated and cruel practice which is still present throughout much of the public education system. In recent decades, the practice has increasingly been phased out of use. However, as recently as the 2020-2021 school year, it was reported that 19,400 K-12 students received some form of corporal punishment in public schools¹. Students with disabilities are disproportionately targeted in the usage of corporal punishment in classrooms, which often leads to an increase in anxiety, child aggression, and an impairment of social and educational development.

NDSS strives to ensure all individuals with Down syndrome are guaranteed their human rights and valued by a more inclusive society. The passage of H.R. 3625 will make important progress toward both of those goals. We urge Congress to take action on this issue, and we thank you for your leadership regarding this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandi Pickard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kandi Pickard
President and CEO
National Down Syndrome Society

¹ <https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-discipline-school-climate-report.pdf>