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Stop Child Abuse in Programs that Supposedly

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Rep. George Miller (D-CA) will introduce legislation tomorrow, aimed at reining in the billion dollar "troubled teen" industry. *Times*, [detained](#) about 100,000 children and adolescents as of 2005-- a number which had quadrupled in 10 years.

Right now, many states regulate dog kennels and nail salons more assiduously than they monitor these "tough love" [prisons](#): the teens cannot leave or contact the outside world. And there is no federal regulation at all: in fact, the feds cannot even determine how many programs exist. That question may begin to be answered tomorrow, in a report.

At the last hearing, a GAO [report](#) finding thousands of allegations of abuse and ten deaths at these "boot camps" "emotional" schools, harsh "wilderness programs and "academies," was presented to the house Education and Labor Committee. "eat vomit, lie in urine and feces, forced to use toothbrushes to clean toilets and then on their teeth," the ranking Republican generally opposes increased federal regulation, but "there are some times when it has to happen."

My book, [Help at Any Cost: How the Troubled-Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids](#), was the first to detail the fact that there is no scientific evidence that their approach works, and much to suggest that it can do harm. Two of about the negligence and abuse that killed their children at these programs were prominently featured in the book.

During my research, I interviewed over 100 teens, parents and former employees of these programs-- I have also read hundreds of other accounts on websites like this [one](#) [scroll down], which contains nearly 400 stories of abuse from the Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASP or WWASPS). You don't have to believe me-- the kids who for those with doubts. And I still get regular emails with accounts of new horrifying abuse.

Essentially, in these programs, abuse and degradation is not accidental, but rather, is itself the key ingredient of the "treatment."

I hope that the legislation will ban the use of such tactics-- and effectively monitor compliance. These hearings will also be perpetrated by these organizations-- claims that programs offer very different services than they actually provide.

For example, WWASP's "Tranquility Bay" facility in Jamaica is notorious for being anything but tranquil-- one neighbor like screams emanating from the place and teens who were sent report being kept awake by the cries of those who are employees. WWASP's now-shuttered "Paradise Cove," was known for holding teens in prisoner-of-war like conditions on end.

I will be attending and will update when I can.

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Troubled Teen Boot Camps

Year-Round Boot Camp and School. Did Your Teen Cross the Line?

www.military-school.info

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This isn't a partisan issue. Both Democrats and Republicans have failed to protect teens and adults who are labelled t

professionals. Once a child or an adult has a psychiatric label, they are not believed when they report abuse so institutions do all the time. The Judge Rotenberg Center for instance would never be tolerated if it was a residence for children have to attack the prejudice against people with psychiatric labels in our society in order to stop the abuse of both children through these programs end up at some point in adult mental health facilities where they may not be beaten but they undergo emotional degradation. <http://hymes.wordpress.com>

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don't you see? these youth prisons are the ultimate GOP fantasy: they get to make obscene profits while having a perverted priest can't have nearly as much fun as a "youth detention" guard. this country is going to hell in a handbasket

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If the parents of the children did what they send to these pseudo prisons to do to their children they would be subject to they send their children to be screamed, abused, insulted, humiliated and other indignities? The states do things to children. How screwed up is this. Remember, it was the SPCA, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, that first brought the case on behalf of the 4 or 5 year old girl, in the 1870's. Children were considered property, and still are by many, without any legal protection while children didn't. So much for family values. I've seen the phony pretend christian preachers on TV

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