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[Maia Szalavitz](#)

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## Breaking News: House Passes Legislation to Stop Abuse in Teen Boot Camps and other Residential Programs

Posted June 25, 2008 | 06:56 PM (EST)



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The House Wednesday overwhelmingly passed HR 6358 (formerly HR 5876) by a vote of 318-103, with provisions to both set national standards, create a national hotline that must be accessible to teens in program to report maltreatment and regulation.

Teen "boot camp" "tough love" "wilderness" and "emotional growth" boarding schools and programs currently hold some 100,000 children. There have been hundreds of corroborated reports of emotional, physical or sexual abuse and dozens of deaths in the programs, despite being the equivalent of private jails for children.

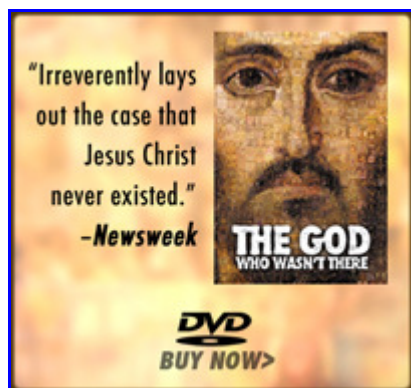
In a press release, bill sponsor George Miller (D-CA) said, "In far too many cases, the very people entrusted with the safety of the children are the ones who violate that trust in some of the worst ways imaginable...We have a responsibility to keep kids safe. With today's vote, the House has made it clear that these abuses have gone on for far too long and they won't be tolerated."

"It is absolutely crucial that we keep children safe when they are in these facilities by setting minimum safety standard using the kind of deceptive marketing that have drawn in so many parents.," Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), a co-aut

Now the battle moves to the Senate -- though action is not expected until after the November elections. Though the bi funding to gain bipartisan support, this is still a real victory for those who care about kids. At least one branch of Congi selling child abuse and sometimes outright torture as therapy is unacceptable.

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## Troubled Teen Boot Camps

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

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i absolutely agree that this industry must have some kind of regulation to ensure the safety of the children in these pro many of these camps were modeled after military boot camps. if boot camp is an abusive environment, does that mea as well??

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As I said when I first heard about these "camps":

"Maybe you should just get off your a\$\$ and become a freaking PARENT!!!!"

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I second Dap Maia.

Congratulations! It may not be all you have worked for but it's a start. Keep up your excellent efforts because without you the message would still be unheard.

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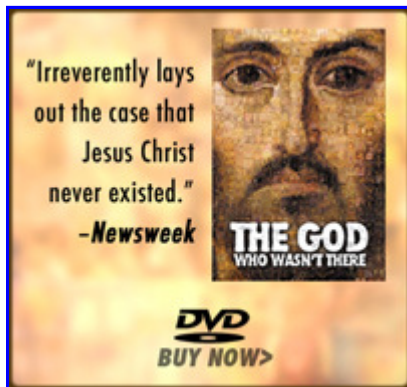
Dear Ms. Szalavitz,

Congratulations, over one hurdle, one to go, thank you for all your exceptional efforts on behalf of the Children. Agape

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## **Troubled Teen Boot Camps**

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

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