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**STATEMENT BY GEORGE PARKER, PRESIDENT,  
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ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ALLEGATIONS**

*The Washington Post reported that the security firm Hawk One filed 220 allegations of corporal punishment against District of Columbia Public Schools teachers last year.*

**WASHINGTON**—The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) takes the well-being of D.C.'s students very seriously. To that end, we have worked closely with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to establish clearly defined procedures for the investigation of corporal punishment and other teacher misconduct. Our procedures outline the process for bringing official charges, conducting investigations and—if the charges are substantiated—swiftly removing the guilty party from the classroom.

To be clear: *Allegations* of corporal punishment are not official *charges*. Still, because the safety of our children is involved, we must be thorough in addressing the allegations. Current DCPS policy requires every claim of corporal punishment by a student—whether substantiated or not—to be reported to and investigated by the Metropolitan Police Department. Disciplinary actions are taken by DCPS only if the allegations are verified. As a result, the actual number of substantiated allegations of corporal punishment is significantly lower than the 220 incidents reported by Hawk One.

The WTU is committed to providing a safe learning environment for our children. To maintain that atmosphere in our schools, we support prompt and comprehensive investigation of all allegations of teacher misconduct before rendering final judgment.

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